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NEARBY

KMF achieves milestone

BENGALURU
The KMF, that markets Nandini milk products recorded a milestone of procuring one crore litre of milk from its members in a day. In its 50th year, the milk behemoth has been scouting newer markets.
» PAGE 4

Road widening: BDA issues notice

BENGALURU
The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has issued a notice to provide Transferable Development Rights (TDR) compensation of ₹1 crore for the Bangalore Palace property, which will be acquired for the widening of prominent roads in the city. » PAGE 3

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

116 people killed in a stampede at prayer meet in Uttar Pradesh

Seven of the dead are children and 108 women; more than 200 persons were injured at the meeting organised by self-styled godman Narayan Sakar Hari in Hathras; over one lakh people participated; Adityanath forms probe panel

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

At least 116 people were killed and over 200 injured in a stampede at a religious event in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday. Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh said seven of the dead were children, one was a man, and the rest were women.

Over 1.2 lakh people had converged for a *satsang* (prayer meeting), titled "*Manav Mangal Milan Sadbhavana Samagam*", organised by self-styled godman Narayan Sakar Hari at Fulrai village in the Sikandrarau police station limits. Eyewitnesses said the police failed to control the crowd that went into a frenzy in an attempt to greet the godman at the end of the *satsang*. According to Sikandrarau Sub-divisional Magistrate Ravendra Kumar, the devotees also wanted to collect some soil from around his feet.

Tragic loss: A child mourns in hospital the death of relatives who attended the prayer at Fulrai village in Hathras on Tuesday. PTI

Heart-wrenching visuals shared by fellow participants showed bodies lying outside the post-mortem house, while kin of the deceased cried out for help. People were forced to carry those who had fainted to get help. No ambulance was available on the spot. The godman and his aides reportedly left the spot immediately after the stampede.

"How can they allow such a big event to happen when there was no preparedness for any untoward incident," asked Sumit Kumar, an eyewitness. He blamed the administration for the poor arrangements.

At a community health care centre in Hathras, people started protesting when no doctor was available to attend to the injured. Videos showed people taking injured people and bodies in mini-lorries.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath formed a committee to investigate the cause.

Ashish Kumar, District Magistrate, Hathras, said permission for the event was granted by the Sub-divisional Magistrate and rest of the arrangements were supposed to be done by the organisers. Initial investigation revealed that over double the permitted number of attendees reached the event.

Inspector-General of Police, Aligarh Range, Shalabh Mathur said 116 bodies were recovered so far among which 27 were sent to the Etah mortuary and the rest were in Hathras. "Bodies were sent to nearby places for post-mortem as we intend to hand over the bodies to their families as soon as possible," he said, adding that a First Information Report was being registered against the organisers.

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CONSIDERABLE FOLLOWING
» PAGE 10

PM says mandate is for continuity, Cong. a 'parasite' on allies

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi

In his first parliamentary address since taking oath as Prime Minister for the third time, Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the Lok Sabha election results were a mandate for "stability and continuity".

In an almost two-and-a-half hour speech delivered amid Opposition sloganeering on Manipur, Mr. Modi launched a blistering attack on the Congress, terming it a "parasite party" that only achieved its 99-seat tally by leaning on its allies.

He was speaking in the Lok Sabha during the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament. Without directly naming Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister singled him out, saying that on Monday, the House had witnessed "the wailing of a person with *balak buddhi* (imbecile)", a pejorative term he used repeatedly through his speech.

Underlining the Congress's defeat in the third consecutive Lok Sabha election, Mr. Modi pointed directly at Mr. Gandhi while declaring, "You can't do it."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Restore my speech in full, Rahul tells Om Birla

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after portions of his maiden speech as Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha were expunged, Rahul Gandhi wrote to Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday, saying the action went "against the very tenets of parliamentary democracy". Demanding that his remarks be restored to the records, he said BJP MP Anurag Thakur's speech was full of allegations, but only one word of it was expunged. "With due respect to your good self, this selective expunction defies logic. I request that the remarks expunged from the proceedings be restored," he said.

CONTINUED ON
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Karnataka to announce price cap on dengue tests in pvt. hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid a surge in dengue cases, Karnataka is all set to announce a price cap on dengue tests in private hospitals. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Tuesday directed officials to deliberate and fix a reasonable price cap on tests in all private hospitals and diagnostic laboratories in the State.

On the rise

Dengue has been on the rise in the State, with 6,187 cases and six deaths reported this year so far. A similar price cap was stipulated by the Congress government in 2015.

Coordination meeting

Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao, who held a coordination meeting on Tuesday with officials from the BBMP, Health and Rural Development, and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) departments to devise dengue control measures, said a notification on the price cap will be issued on Wednesday.

Dengue detection and treatment are free of cost in government hospitals.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

'White-topping of roads will commence soon in Bengaluru'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prominent roads which will undergo white-topping

- Mahatma Gandhi Road from Mahatma Gandhi Circle to Trinity Circle
- Cubbon Road from Minsk Square to Dickenson Road
- Palace Cross Road from railway underbridge approach to BDA junction
- Main Guard Road from Cubbon Road to Dispensary Road
- Swami Vivekananda Road from Trinity Circle to Adarsha junction
- J.C. Road from Minerva Circle to Town Hall.
- K.H. Road from Mission Road to Lalbagh East Gate
- West of Chord Road from Vijayanagar TTMC to Vijayanagar market signal
- Sarjapur Road from Jakkasandra to ORR
- CBI Road from Ballari Road to R.T. Nagar main road

The controversial white-topping work will commence in the city as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has instructed officials to make all necessary preparations to launch the project.

Addressing an inter-departmental coordination meeting regarding implementation of the white-topping project on July 2, he stated that the project will be undertaken in 15 packages. Of these, 13 packages have been finalised, and work orders have been issued to the contractors. The remaining two packages are at the government level.

Mr. Giri Nath directed officials from BWSSB, Bescom, KPTCL, and GAIL to conduct site surveys and submit reports on the relocation of water and sewer pipelines, cables, and gas pipelines. BWSSB must install pipes along both sides of a road instead of through the middle. Once the project is completed, no permission will be granted to cut the road for any reason, he said.

A list of areas where the white-topping project will be implemented has been provided to all departments. Joint inspections have already been conducted, and final preparations are under way to commence the project, he said. A comprehensive system for installing ducts for utilities along both sides of the pedestrian pathways on roads undergoing white-topping must be established. Coordination with the respective departments is essential for this task, Mr. Giri Nath stressed in the meeting.

Traffic route changes

Coordination with the traffic department is necessary to implement route changes in areas where the white-topping project is undertaken. The project must be completed within a set time frame to ensure minimal disruption in movement of vehicles. The work should be done in phases to avoid any inconvenience to movement of vehicles, he instructed the officials.

Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure) B.S. Prahlad stated that the white-topping project will cover approximately 150 km of roads. Traffic police officers have been requested to identify alternative routes in areas where the project is being carried out. Additionally, the work will be carried out during day and night to ensure timely completion.

Jasprit Bumrah a wizard at work

Even with a team replete with some of the most aesthetically bruising stroke-makers in the business, Rohit was aware that India's campaign at the T20 World Cup would hinge around how his principal hitman shaped up

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

Like a stalled racehorse waiting for the gates to open, he waits for the batter to settle into his stance. The unconscious twitching of the shoulders already out of the way, he gathers himself for a microsecond, then sets off on a brisk walk with the ball held above his head in both hands. After a few quick steps, he gathers momentum, exploding at the bowling crease with a hyperextended right elbow, a braced left knee. The orb that leaves his hand is now a weapon of destruction. It could shape in in the air, break away on pitching and hit top of off, like Reeza Hendricks found out. It could defy physics and tail in late, as Marco Jansen discovered to his utter shock.

It can also begin way outside off and keep coming in, homing in on toes and stumps as if radar-directed. Skeptical? Ask Ollie Pope. And it can grip and turn, delivered with a slight tweak of the fingers, pace taken off, and sneak through the defences to rattle timber. Phil Salt will nod his head, in grudging acceptance.

Is there anything Jasprit Bumrah can't do with the cricket ball? Maybe bowl left-arm wrist-spin, yes, for now. But with right arm and fingers and wrist, there's nothing he can't do. Not to the right-hander, not to the left-hander. Not with a new cherry, not with an old ball. Not in Test cricket, not in the limited-overs variants. Bumrah is the most perfect bowler of his generation, distinctly unique, incredibly skilled, and unbelievably hard-working.

Ace Marksman

Even with a team replete with some of the most aesthetically bruising stroke-makers in the business, Rohit Sharma was aware that India's campaign at the T20 World Cup would hinge around how his principal hitman shaped up. He had a maximum of 24 deliveries at his disposal in each outing, but those four overs could often be the difference between victory and defeat. And while he was allowed only 24 legal deliveries, their impact was such that around his overs, other bowlers would benefit. Not least Arshdeep Singh, Bumrah's new-ball partner and understudy, the joint leading wicket-taker of the tournament alongside Afghan Fazalhaq Farooqi, with 17 sticks.

Bumrah slotted in third in that chart, but he was the bowler of the tournament and, officially - as if confirmation was required - the Player of the Tournament. His 15 wickets came at an average of 8.26, a strike-rate of 11.86 and the fairly ridiculous economy of 4.17. He bowled 29.4 of a potential 32 overs in eight matches and conceded just 12 boundaries - 10 fours and two sixes - out of a total 124 runs scored off his bowling; 26% of those runs, stats reveal, were when the batters were not in control.

These are cold, bland, mundane numbers, but even they tell a tale in themselves. What they don't elucidate is just how much having Bumrah in their ranks lifted India, how much it cowed oppositions down.

Need of the hour

Imagine being Rohit, able to summon Bumrah to the bowling crease when he needed control, or wickets. In T20 cricket, one is not any more significant than the other at most times. Sometimes, a 'control over' can be more damaging than a double-wicket maiden. Like in the final. Axar Patel's last over of what was otherwise a fantastic World Cup for him had gone for 24, Heinrich Klaasen embarking on a boundary-bashing spree. That humongous over brought the equation down to 30 needed off 30, six wickets in hand.

For most of the World Cup, Rohit has tended to use Bumrah maybe occasionally in the 16th, mainly in the 17th, and then reserved him for the 19th, which is generally delivered by the best bowler in the line-up. This time, after the Klaasen pyrotechnics, he needed breathing space. He needed someone who would bring about a modicum of sanity to the proceedings, a bankable option who would drag out the game, take the chase deeper. The option was a no-brainer.

Ask and he will deliver

Bumrah bowled a gun 16th. He knew his captain relied on him to pull things back. He knew the fate of the final hinged on how the 16th unfolded. He couldn't have won the final in those six balls, but for all the magic he had produced in the preceding seven games, and in his first two overs in the title clash, he could have lost it. If he didn't feel any nerves, he wouldn't have been human. But wait, maybe he isn't human, after all? Maybe he is super-human, above human, beyond human.

Bumrah was on top of his game, that over an event in itself. Just four singles. Four lopped off the target, but the ball was doing a little. Bumrah is dangerous even when the ball is doing nothing. When it's doing a little, well...

Bumrah couldn't have pulled it off all on his own. He could bowl just 25% of the 24 balls remaining, of which South Africa required 26. He needed help. He needed support. He needed more than one bowler to back him up. He found support in Hardik Pandya, and in Arshdeep, a protégé if there was one. But it was Bumrah who was the difference. By the proverbial country mile.

A lengthy gap between Bumrah's 16th and Hardik's 17th, to tend to Rishabh Pant's knee injury, must have set the nerves jangling in Klaasen, for there is no other explanation for his optimistic waft at a widish first ball from Hardik which took the edge on its way to Pant. 26 off 23, enter Jansen. The odds still in South Africa's favour, but the force and momentum with India, the despondency of ten minutes back replaced by the prospect of an astonishing heist. Danger man Klaasen gone, six Bumrah balls to go.

Rohit could have stuck to his template, brought Arshdeep on for the 18th, held Bumrah back for the next, but he went with gut. With instinct. With blind faith in his enforcer. Not for the first time, Bumrah didn't let him down.

If No. 16 was awesome, No. 18 was out of the world. *Out of This World*, as the tournament's catchline screamed from different parts of the ground. Two runs, Jansen packed off with a pearler, balance tilted, job nearly done.

More than a hitman

Bumrah is now eight and a half years young in international cricket, time enough for him to have graduated from just a bowler, no matter how complete, to a leader, to a mentor. He was done with the ball, yes, but he wasn't done as a competitor. Already, he had showcased his leadership skills by walking up to Axar for a high-five after the 24-run over. After Quinton de Kock had smashed Arshdeep for six over long-leg, he thrice called out to the bowler from short third-man, and clapped furiously, encouraging his younger mate. A field change resulted in de Kock holing out to long-leg the next ball. Coincidence, for sure. Poor cricket from the Protean 'keeper, without a shadow of doubt. But Bumrah wasn't just thinking about his own bowling. He was looking out for his colleagues. No wonder then, that Arshdeep concedes that several of his 17 wickets came about because of the pressure Bumrah imposed at the other end, because of the liberty batters felt they had to take against him because they would get nothing, absolutely nothing, from Bumrah.

This isn't just romanticising the premier bowler in the world currently. If anything, words can't do justice to what Bumrah is unleashing these days, ball after searching ball, over after probing over. You have to be at the ground to experience the electricity when he is at the top of his bowling mark. You have to witness first-hand the slightly haunted look on the batter's face, never mind if he is Jos Buttler or Keshav Maharaj, David Warner or Naveen-ul-Haq, Babar Azam or Saurabh Netravalkar. They know they are in the crosshairs, and while Bumrah might be no Abhinav Bindra, he seldom misses.

A fortnight back, former Indian pacer Lakshmipathi Balaji had told this writer that Bumrah's legacy as the second best Asian fast bowler ever after Wasim Akram would be cemented if, like the great Pakistan in the 1992 World Cup final against England, he could single-handedly deliver India this World Cup. Balaji reflected on the similarities between Bumrah and Akram - generating pace and momentum and power from the upper body rather than the lower, like most conventional quicks do. Using the bowling hand and the shoulder and the wrist and the fingers to weave their magic. Taking the pitch out of the equation. Balaji, himself having fought back from a career-threatening back injury to make an India comeback, was in awe of how much Bumrah had gotten better after his back surgery last year.

"He is just the most complete fast bowler right now. Look at him – Test cricket, white-ball cricket, doesn't matter," the Tamil Nadu coach had gushed. "New ball, he will get the job done. Old ball, he can reverse it phenomenally. Middle overs in limited-overs games, his variations and his repertoire make him a wicket-taker, not someone who just contains the flow of runs. If there is a more versatile and dangerous fast bowler right now, I don't know who that is."

You are not alone, Bala, you certainly are not. There is just Bumrah, daylight, and then the chasing pack.

THE GIST

- Bumrah is the most perfect bowler of his generation, distinctly unique, incredibly skilled, and unbelievably hard-working
- The speedster bowled a gun 16th in the final. He knew his captain relied on him to pull things back. He knew the fate of the match hinged on how the over unfolded
- Former Indian pacer Lakshmipathi Balaji noted that Bumrah's legacy as the second best Asian fast bowler ever after Wasim Akram would be cemented if he could single-handedly deliver India the 2024 T20 World Cup

Taxi drivers and owners welcome Hosur airport plan

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently unveiled plans to establish an international airport spanning 2,000 acres in Hosur, located 40 km from Bengaluru

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Taxi drivers and owners in Bengaluru have given their thumbs up to the Tamil Nadu government's decision to establish an airport in Hosur, amidst ongoing discussions about its pros and cons to the city.

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, along with other taxi drivers and owners' unions, welcomed the initiative, noting that it will benefit cab drivers and residents of eastern and southern Bengaluru, who currently endure over two hours of travel to reach Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, along with other taxi drivers and owners' unions, has said it will benefit cab drivers and residents of eastern and southern Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently unveiled plans during the Legislative Assembly session to establish an international airport spanning 2,000 acres in Hosur, an industrial town located 40 kilometres from Bengaluru, capable of accommodating three crore passengers annually.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Radhakrishna Holla, president of Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, said: "There has been a significant demand over the past few years for a new airport in Bengaluru, as the current one is deemed to be insufficient in another few years. The new airport should ideally be situated in the southeastern part of Bengaluru to cater to the needs of residents in this area, particularly those employed in the IT and BT sectors. Now, the Tamil Nadu government's announcement of the airport in Hosur will benefit the people of southeastern Bengaluru."

Mr. Holla pointed out that residents of Electronics City and Bommasandra face difficulties reaching the airport, with significant inconvenience for both passengers and drivers alike.

He emphasised that the Hosur airport plan would benefit people by enabling quicker access without the need to spend additional money on cab fares.

Despite Bengaluru cab drivers being happy about potential increased business and a hassle-free drive to Hosur from the southeastern part of the city, they anticipate needing permits to cross state borders, which they don't foresee as a significant issue.

Tanveer Pasha, president of Ola, Uber Drivers and Owners' Association, told *The Hindu*: "Cab aggregators may face challenges operating across state borders. However, regular cab drivers not affiliated with aggregators may find that obtaining an all-India permit online is now relatively straightforward, potentially mitigating any permit-related issues."

Although the airport has been a longstanding demand among industrialists in the area, one obstacle is the concession agreement between the Centre and Bangalore International Airport Ltd., the operator of KIA.

This agreement prohibits the operation of new or existing airports (except for Mysuru and Hassan airports) within a 150-kilometre aerial radius until 2033.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu government is actively advocating for the expansion of Bengaluru metro to reach Hosur. The Yellow Lline which goes till Bommasandra is scheduled to commence operations by December 2024, linking Bommasandra with R.V. Road.

The proposed Bommasandra-Hosur metro corridor extends over 20.5 km, with 11.7 km falling within Karnataka, and the remaining 8.8 km within Tamil Nadu. Chennai Metro Rail Limited has undertaken a feasibility study for establishing an inter-State metro rail network.

Juveniles held for stealing mobile phone

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The HAL police on Monday caught two juveniles alleged involved in stealing a mobile phone. The accused are from Nepal; one of them is a high school student aged around 16, and the other is working as a salesman in a clothes shop, said the police.

The police said they allegedly ganged up and robbed a mobile phone from a private firm employee who was returning home from work this May.

Inquiries revealed that the accused were allegedly addicted to alcohol and decided to rob people walking alone.

First case

The police said that this was the first case the accused were involved in.

Influencer held for making reels posing with guns

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kothanur police have arrested a 25-year-old social media influencer for creating reels with guns and bodyguards.

Based on a complaint, the police registered a *suo motu* case and arrested Arun Kathare, charging him with nuisance and under the Arms Act for further investigation. He was remanded in judicial custody while the seized guns were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory, for analysis to ascertain the source.

The accused, who hails from Chitradurga, used to make reels and put them up on social media. In the first week of June, Kathare was seen walking around a hotel in Chokkanahalli with bodyguards carrying fake guns resembling Ak-47s, creating panic.

After his interrogation, the Kothanur police registered a case against Kathare for causing public disturbance under the Arms Act and Section 290 of the IPC (now Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita). He has been sent to judicial custody.

Arun Kathare often posted videos on Instagram wearing false jewellery and posing with fake guns, luxurious cars and motorcycles, and girls to get likes.

Police officials said that Kathare often posted videos on his Instagram account wearing false jewellery and posing with fake guns, luxurious cars and motorcycles, and girls to get likes.

Gig workers laud new draft Bill, but feel there's room for improvement

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Workers, experts, and various unions representing gig workers in the State have welcomed the recently published draft of the Karnataka Platform based Gig Workers Social Security and Welfare Bill, and have termed it "an honest intention to address the essential social security and welfare issues of platform-based gig workers."

While praising the fact that the Bill has adopted a workers' rights-based approach, they also feel that there's room for improvement. One of the viewpoints put forward by the workers is regarding the implementation of a "transaction-based cess model linked with existing social security legislation."

The draft Bill proposes establishing a Gig Workers Welfare Board and a Karnataka Gig Workers' Social Security and Welfare Fund which would be majorly financed through 'welfare fee' from platforms, contributions by the gig workers, and grants from the State and the Union governments.

The draft Bill proposes establishing a Gig Workers Welfare Board and a Karnataka Gig Workers' Social Security and Welfare Fund.

According to the draft, the welfare fee shall be charged from an aggregator "which shall be at such rate (percent) of the pay of the platform based gig worker in each transaction or on the annual State specific turnover as may be notified by the State government."

Shaik Salauddin, national general secretary and co-founder of Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers (IFAT), felt that levying a percentage on overall profits or turnover may not be the right approach. He pointed out that many large tech firms report minimal or no profits, which could make it difficult to collect a fee from their overall turnover.

Also, many platforms, although they have gig workers, make their revenues from the cost of goods sold. Therefore, levying a share of revenue thus made for the welfare of gig workers may seem complicated.

While terming the draft Bill as a first-of-its-kind attempt by any State government to comprehensively address the overall welfare of gig workers, Vinay Sarathy, president of United Food Delivery Partners' Union, feels that the Bill should have more representatives from workers' unions.

The draft Bill proposes several important measures such as checks and balances against arbitrary terminations and a two-level grievance redressal mechanism among others.

"This (draft Bill) is our view. Only when we get the suggestions from various stakeholders will the Bill take its appropriate shape," said Manjunath G., Additional Labour Commissioner.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 03	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 03:12	SET 16:32
THURSDAY, JUL. 04	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 04:07	SET 17:33
FRIDAY, JUL. 05	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 05:05	SET 18:32

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	28	21
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather conditions will remain dry. Day will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Short spell of light rain or thundershower with gusty winds will occur at evening hours. The day will be comfortable with cloudy sky.

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THE HINDU
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From Page One

State to announce price cap on dengue tests in private hospitals

Directing all hospitals, including private facilities, to mandatorily notify all dengue cases, the Health Minister said, "More dengue cases are being detected as the testing rate has increased by 42% compared to last year. Early detection can help prevent complications and fatalities. Officials from the Health Department and BBMP should be on alert and function in coordination," the Minister said.

Speaking to mediapersons after the meeting, the Minister said the current case fatality rate (CFR) of dengue in Karnataka is 0.09%.

"According to the Government of India guidelines, dengue CFR should not exceed 0.5%. I have directed the officials to intensify preventive measures and focus on early detection to prevent complications and deaths," he said.

Six deaths

Of the six deaths reported in the State so far, two are from Hassan and one each from Bengaluru, Shivamogga, Dharwad, and Haveri. "All hospitals have been equipped to handle the surge in cases," he said. Directing the officials to conduct special source reduction activities every Friday, Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has been instructed to conduct a meeting with builders and members of CREDAI to ensure that there is no water stagnation on the construction sites."

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated July 3, we have a story on how an avalanche of vehicles with high-beam are invading the roads with no real regulation in sight. Even though the maximum limit for low beams is 55W and for high beam is 60W, the easy availability of a wide range of LED headlights exceeding 100W has played havoc on the roads.

MoU signed between THG Publishing Private Limited and Christ for 'STEP'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between THG Publishing Private Limited and Christ (deemed to be university) for the 'STEP (Standardised Test for English Proficiency)', which was launched by The Hindu Group in 2016.

Anil Joseph Pinto, Registrar of Christ, and a representative of THG Publishing Private Limited signed the memorandum on Tuesday at Christ.

The 'STEP' programme, being implemented at Christ, assesses the student's proficiency in English, which helps in gaining an understanding of their current skill set through an online test.

The test helps educators in curating a curriculum tailored to the individual needs of the students. Through this test, the educators gain an understanding of the specific needs of students. Those with a score of below 7 are provided with remedial classes, which aim to help them in developing their listening, speaking, reading, and writing (LSRW) skills.

Praising the 'STEP' programme, Prof. Pinto said it will be a good opportunity for students to test their language skills. Considering the diversity among the students at the college, he emphasised on the need for having a curriculum according to the specific needs of the students.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AE(T)/F-38/24-25/753-55 Date: 27.06.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids against the following works on Partial Turnkey basis.

1) Providing 11kV Bus coupler and adopter panel for coupling of 11kV Bank-1 and Bank-2 at 66/11kV S/s Jigani **(Reserved for SC).**

2) Providing 1 No. of 11kV Bus coupler MCVCB for connecting Bank 2A and 3A at 220/66/11kV R/s Yerrandanahalli.

3) Providing 1 No. of 11kV Bus coupler MCVCB for connecting Bank 1A and Transformer-2 at 66/11kV S/s Anekal **(Reserved for ST).**

4) Providing additional 11kV MCVCB panels of MEI make at 220/66/11kV R/s Sarjapura.

5) Providing CI pipes (CI pipes will be supplied by KPTCL) with connected works for strengthening of existing earthing for 220kV and 400kV Surge Arrestors at 400kV R/s Nelamangala.

The details regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to KPTCL website: **http://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** on or after **03.07.2024.**

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Ele.), Transmission (Main), Ramanagara Circle, KPTCL, Opp. R.R. Nagara Metro Station, Pantharapalya, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru - 560026. Ph: 080-29620155.**

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ನನ್ನ ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರುಗಳಾದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ, ದಾಸರಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಹಟ್ಟಿಲಕ್ಕಮ್ಮ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಮಲ್ಲಸಂದ್ರ, ನಂ.165 ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಶ್ರೀ.ಕುಂಬಣ್ಣ ರವರ ಮಗನಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ. ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ .ಎಮ್.ಕೆ** ರವರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ವಿವರವಾಗಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಪೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಅದರ ಮಾಲೀಕರುಗಳಾದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ತ್ಯಾಮಗೊಂಡ್ಲು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ನಿಂಬೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ದಿವಂಗತ. ಮುತ್ತಾಲಯ್ಯ ನವರ ಮಗನಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ. ಪುಟ್ಟರಸಯ್ಯ** ರವರ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಒಪ್ಪಿ ನಿಷ್ಪರ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಪೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಮಾರಾಟದ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ, ತಕರಾರು ಏನಾದರೂ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಅಥವಾ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯಾದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಭಾದ್ಯತೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, **ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ 15 (ಹದಿನೈದು) ದಿವಸಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ** ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳ ಸಮೇತ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. ಆಗೊಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಯಾವ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳು ಬಾರದಿದ್ದ ಪಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ವ್ಯವಹಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರೊಬ್ಬರ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ, ಪೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಂದ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮೂಲಕ ನನ್ನ ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರು ಪೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಅವರ ಮಾಲೀಕತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬಾದ್ಯರಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆ ನಂತರದ ಆಗು ಹೋಗುಗಳಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರು ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯಿಂದಲೂ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರರು ಅಥವಾ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರರಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಪೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ತ್ಯಾಮಗೊಂಡ್ಲು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ನಿಂಬೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 18/1 ರಲ್ಲಿ 1.32.00.00 ಗುಂಟೆ ಖುಷ್ಕಿ ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ಜಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ:

ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ : ಶ್ರೀ. ರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಜಮೀನು, **ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ** : ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಜಮೀನು; **ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ** : ರಸ್ತೆ; **ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ** : ಶ್ರೀ. ಹುಚ್ಚಯ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀ. ಗಂಗಯ್ಯ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು.

ಈ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಇರುವ ಜಮೀನು ಈ ಕ್ರಯದ ಮುಂಗಡ ಕರಾರು ಪತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತವೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ. ರಘು .ವಿ.ಎಲ್., ವಕೀಲರು
ನಂ.792/1, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಸಿ.ಎಂ. ನಿವಾಸ,
ಟಿ. ದಾಸರಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 057.
ಫೋನ್: 9980311276
ಸ್ಥಳ : ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.07.2024

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
A Statutory Authority of Government of India under the Architects Act, 1972
India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

CONDUCT OF POST GRADUATE ENTRANCE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE (PGETA-2024)

Notification for PGETA-2024

All candidates, institutions and other stakeholders are hereby informed that the Council of Architecture shall be conducting a national level Postgraduate Entrance Test in Architecture **(PGETA – 2024)** for admission to Postgraduate programme being imparted at the architectural institutions approved by the Council for the academic session 2024-2025, as required as per Council of Architecture Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Guidelines for Postgraduate Degree Programme, 2022.

PGETA – 2024 shall be conducted on 28th July, 2024 and 4th August, 2024. The brochure containing relevant details of the Test and the eligibility criteria for admission to Post Graduate Programme is available at **www.pgeta.in.** A list of institutions imparting Postgraduate programme in Architecture approved by the Council in the country is available at the website of the Council-**www.coa.gov.in.** The registration for **PGETA-2024** shall commence from 03.07.2024.

The candidates desirous to take admission into Postgraduate programme in Architecture are advised to register themselves for **PGETA-2024** at **www.pgeta.in.**

New Delhi
Dated : 02.07.2024

Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: **SRI. ALOK RAMAN** S/o Sri.Raman.B.A and his brother **SRI.ATUL RAMAN,** residing at: No.493/F, Out House, 8th Cross, 7th Block, West of Kanakapura Road, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560070.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No.4, PID No.50-14-4, measuring East to West 27ft and North to South 38ft 6 Inches, situated at Middle School Cross Road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore and bounded on:

East By : Property belongs to the legal heirs of B.A.Venkataramana Setty
West By : Property belongs to the legal heirs of B.A.Raghu
North By : Road
South By : Conservancy

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

Two vaccines that brought us to the brink of eradicating polio

While the poliovirus is today restricted to rural pockets of Afghanistan and Pakistan, it is beginning to reappear in big cities in these two countries thanks to vaccine hesitancy. The WHO's Global Polio Eradication Initiative is thus set to miss its deadline of eradicating polio by the end of 2024

Arun Panchapakesan

A health worker (right) administers polio vaccine drops to a child during a vaccination campaign in Karachi. AFP

THE GIST

The inability to culture polio in non-nerve cells was a major roadblock to developing a polio vaccine. Enders and his team made it possible for the poliovirus to be mass-produced for vaccine research

Salk made the first successful vaccine using Enders' method to grow the virus. He inactivated the virus by treating it with formaldehyde, and injected it into his test subjects. The fragments of the inactivated virus were able to induce immunity

Albert Sabin developed the OPV that contained live polio strains weakened by growing them in macaque cells. Since Sabin's vaccine contained live virus particles, it had to rely on its natural mode of infection and was therefore administered orally

In 1948, microbiologists John F. Enders, Thomas Weller, and Frederick Robbins were trying to find a method to grow different viruses in cell cultures. In a routine experiment involving human muscle and skin cells, they decided to test one more virus along with the ones they were already testing, since a vial containing that virus was in their freezer. To their surprise, the virus proliferated and grew well with their method. Their work eventually solved one of the most important scientific problems of the time.

They had just managed to find a way to grow the poliovirus in non-nerve cells.

A major roadblock

In the mid-20th century, researchers widely believed the poliovirus could only be grown in cultures of nerve cells. This misconception was propagated by their inability to infect rhesus macaques by the oral route, and only by directly injecting the virus into the nervous system. At the time, they didn't know the problem was with the poliovirus strains they were using.

The poliovirus has only one natural host – humans – and many of the early strains of the virus were isolated from humans and wouldn't infect non-human primates. Since scientists kept passing the virus through the brain tissues of macaques, it adapted to that mode of infection.

The inability to culture polio in non-nerve cells was a major roadblock to developing a polio vaccine. But thanks to Enders and his team, the poliovirus could now be mass-produced for vaccine research.

Eradication target missed

Polio eradication is one of the top priorities of the World Health Organisation (WHO). Since Africa was declared polio-free in August 2020, the wild poliovirus has been restricted to rural pockets of Afghanistan and Pakistan. But according to a recent report in *Science*, the virus is beginning to reappear in big cities in these two countries.

This reemergence is a result of vaccine hesitancy due to misinformation, conflict, poverty, and limited access to these isolated regions. The WHO's Global Polio Eradication Initiative is thus set to miss its deadline of eradicating polio by the end of 2024.

The initiative's failure in Afghanistan and Pakistan casts a long shadow on an otherwise remarkable achievement: polio having been eradicated everywhere else. This feat was driven by two vaccines, both invented within a year of each other. They are administered differently, provide distinct levels of protection, contain different components, and target different compartments of the immune system. Yet they both played equally invaluable roles in the global fight against polio.

The systemic and the mucosal

In late 1949, Enders received a letter requesting the starting material and the procedure his team had perfected to grow the poliovirus in culture. At the time, Enders & Co. were discussing their own future work. While his younger colleagues, Weller and Robbins, wanted to use the method to foray into vaccine research, Enders said such a job was ill-suited for basic science researchers like themselves. They handed over the sample and the procedure to the letter's author, the director of the Virus Research Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh, Jonas Salk.

Salk made the first successful vaccine for polio. He grew the virus using the method Enders and his team had developed, inactivated it by treating it with formaldehyde, and injected it into his test subjects. The fragments of the inactivated virus were able to induce immunity in their bodies. Importantly, since the vaccine was introduced into the muscle, it generated systemic immunity.

The immune system has two main parts: the systemic and the mucosal. The systemic component includes the blood, the brain, and all other organ systems. The mucosal component includes the inner linings of the digestive and respiratory systems, the urogenital tract, and the eyes. These regions are lined with mucous membranes that provide an additional layer of protection, as they frequently come into contact with the external environment.

> John F. Enders, Thomas Weller, and Frederick Robbins solved one of the most important scientific problems of their time. They managed to find a way to grow the poliovirus in non-nerve cells

Striking at ground zero

Soon after Salk made his inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), Albert Sabin developed another vaccine that contained live polio strains weakened by growing them serially in macaque cells, making them unfit for human infection. Since Sabin's vaccine contained live virus particles, it had to rely on its natural mode of infection and was therefore administered orally. This was the oral polio vaccine (OPV).

Since the OPV went into the stomach, it induced a powerful protective mucosal immune response right where the virus would have to begin its infection.

The OPV had multiple advantages over the IPV. First, the vaccine induced a protective response at the viral entry site – the gut – allowing it to provide a much greater degree of protection relative to the IPV. Second, the OPV was administered orally and didn't require syringes or trained personnel for its administration.

A one-two punch

But there was a catch. Occasionally, the weakened virus in the OPV would revert, and do the very job it was designed to prevent: cause polio. On the other hand, the IPV, while being a less potent vaccine, contained inactivated virus particles and carried no risk of causing vaccine-induced polio.

The world has used both vaccines in the fight against polio. While some countries, such as Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland, relied exclusively on the IPV, most countries have used a combination of the two. The latter countries prefer the OPV for its superior protection and ease of administration. When the number of natural polio cases drops to zero, they switch to IPV for its enhanced safety.

Despite the many differences between the Salk and Sabin vaccines, they share one crucial feature that armed the WHO in its fight against polio: both Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin chose not to patent their vaccines. When asked who owned the patent on his vaccine, Salk famously replied: "Well, the people, I would say. There is no patent. Could you patent the sun?"

(Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaithonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai.)

BIG SHOT

A pier at high tide after the passage of Hurricane Beryl in Oistins near Bridgetown, Barbados, on Monday. Hurricane Beryl brought devastating winds and heavy rain to several Caribbean islands on the day as the earliest-ever Category 4 storm on record churned westward. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

How we grow taller at night

The Hindu Bureau

Q: Are we measurably taller in the morning than when we go to bed?

A1: We are all indeed taller in the morning. There are two components to this. In a growing child, the growth hormone is secreted in pulses overnight. This acts through several intermediary steps to cause lengthening of the bones at the end-plates (epiphyses). Accurate measurements of the forearm or lower leg using specialised apparatus or X-rays can record this night-time growth.

The most marked effect, however, which occurs even after growth has ceased, is caused by postural compression of the spine under the effect of gravity. This was recognised in mediaeval French folklore: it was common practice to apply for recruitment to the army first thing in the morning in order to appear taller. In 1724, Reverend Joseph Wasse from Aynho in Northamptonshire, U.K., measured a loss of up to 15 mm through the day. This was more marked in young and active labourers.

A2: Another factor concerns the inherent curvatures of the spinal column. This has a convexity backwards in the thoracic or chest region, called a kyphosis, and a concavity in the lumbar region or base of the back called a lordosis. These curves vary with body weight and position. As a result, the spinal column tends to press downwards when in an upright position, altering these curvatures, and hence shortening the spinal length. When lying down, the reverse happens and the column lengthens again.

The combination of disc and curvature factors causes height change and is about 16 mm during the course of the day in the average adult.

A pencil illustration of the vertebral column and the spinal cord. H.G. WETSELAAR, UNIVERSITAIRE BIBLIOTHEKEN LEIDEN

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Road widening: BDA issues notice to pay TDR compensation of ₹1 crore for palace property

After completion of the process, the Bangalore Development Authority will first take possession of the property and then hand over the same to the BBMP for road widening

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A file photo of Ballari Road. About 15 acres and 17.5 guntas are needed for widening stretches on Ballari and Jayamahal roads.

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has issued a notice to provide Transferable Development Rights (TDR) compensation of ₹1 crore for the Bangalore Palace property, which will be acquired for the widening of prominent roads in the city.

BDA Commissioner Jayaram N. told *The Hindu* that after the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) calculated the TDR value and completed the formalities, the development authority issued a notice to provide the TDR which is valued at about ₹1 crore.

The notice enclosed with a copy of the TDR certificate was served to the property owners identified by the BBMP. Mr. Jayaram further said the property owners have not received the notice, but the authority has completed its job.

A senior BBMP official said earlier that there was a misconception that the TDR compensation would be ₹1,400 crore. "For about 15 acres and 17.5 guntas needed for widening stretches on Ballari and Jayamahal roads, the compensation has been calculated at ₹1 crore. The calculation was done based on the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996. The TDR for the palace property is not calculated based on the guidance value. The Act was passed for the sole purpose of acquisition and transfer of the palace property," the official said.

The official further said that under this Act, 472 acres of palace land are worth ₹11 crore and 15 acres are valued at ₹60 lakh, and 1.5 times of that sum would come to around ₹1 crore. The officer said as the notice was not received by the legal heirs of the erstwhile Mysore royal family, it will be sent by post. "In the next hearing at the Supreme Court, we will inform the court that the TDR was issued," the officer said. After completion of the process, the BDA will first take possession of the property and then hand over the same to the BBMP for the purpose of road widening.

Farmer says his property papers misused to bail out drug accused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 68-year-old farmer from Chickballapur has filed a complaint with the Central Crime Branch (CCB) police against unknown people for misusing his property papers to bail out an accused in a drug case.

Based on the complaint by Chikka Bayanna, the police have registered an FIR against unknown people charging them with fraud, forgery, and cheating.

The incident came to light when Mr. Bayanna was approached by court officials to cross-check the surety used to get bail for the prime accused, identified as Adithyan P.B.

A probe revealed that the the CCB arrested Adithyan along with six of his associates, including a Nigerian national, in May 2021 in Kadugodi, for allegedly peddling synthetic drugs.

The accused were allegedly sourcing the drugs through the dark net paying through bitcoins.

The accused used to sell it to their network, including college students and IT professionals, during the pandemic.

While the accused was in judicial custody, his associates allegedly forged documents of two acres of farming land of Mr. Bayanna and also forged his Aadhaar card, said the complaint. The accused produced a man impersonating as Mr. Bayanna before the magistrate in person to give his consent for the surety, he alleged.

Convocation of IISc. on July 15

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 2024 Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) convocation will be held on July 15 at the J.N. Tata Auditorium. Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand will be the chief guest and Chairman of Axilor Ventures Kris Gopalakrishnan, who is also IISc. chair, will be the guest of honour.

A total of 1,105 degrees will be conferred upon students of various undergraduate, masters and research programmes during the ceremony.

APPOINTMENT

HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED
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AVIONICS DIVISION : HYDERABAD

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Navaratna Central Public Sector undertaking, is a premier Aeronautical Industry of South East Asia, with 20 Production/Overhaul/Service Divisions and 10 co-located R&D Centres and 1 Facility Management Division, spread across the Country.

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Junior Specialist -8

Please visit HAL, Website **www.hal-india.co.in** for further details regarding No. of Posts, Reservation, Age, Qualification & Experience Requirements, Relaxations, Mode of Applying, Selection Procedure, location of posting etc. Last date of applying is **18-07-2024.**

APPOINTMENT

URGENT REQUIREMENT : MEDICAL FACULTY
PA SANGMA INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MEGHALAYA
nirf India Ranking-2023 (151-200) Accredited 'A' Grade by NAAC

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- Biochemistry
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- Pathology
- Forensic Medicine
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Eligibile candidates are requested to send their resume to ***ustm.rectt@gmail.com*** *with a recent passport size photograph on or before* ***10th July, 2024.***

Sd/-
Registrar

Khanapara, Kling Road, Baridua, G.S. Road, 9th Mile, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya
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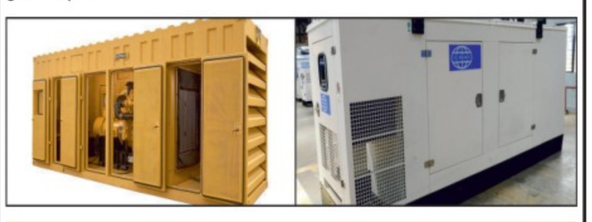

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Last date for receipt of application is on 13.07.2024

GENERAL

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The online examination (Preliminary and Main) for the upcoming Common Recruitment Process for Recruitment and Selection of personnel for Clerical cadre Posts in the Participating Banks is tentatively scheduled in the month of August, 2024 & October, 2024.

Candidates intending to apply for CRP Clerks XIV should ensure that they fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria on the stipulated date as specified in the detailed notification issued and hosted on authorised website by IBPS.

Activity	Tentative Dates
Online registration including Edit/ Modification of Application & Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges	01.07.2024 to 21.07.2024
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training ●	12.08.2024 to 17.08.2024
Online Examination - Preliminary	August, 2024
Result of Online exam - Preliminary	September, 2024
Online Examination - Main	October, 2024

● PET may be conducted either in Online Mode or Physical Mode

Candidates are advised to regularly visit the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.

Before registering online, candidates are advised to read the detailed notification carefully and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

Mumbai
Date: 01.07.2024 **DIRECTOR**

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The share of citizens saving passwords in an unsafe manner

17 in per cent. Nearly a sixth of Indians have been found storing important financial passwords of ATMs, debit or credit cards, bank accounts and app stores in an unsafe manner, findings of a recent survey by Localcircles revealed. PTI

The increase in coal production in the month of June

14.49 in per cent. India's coal production rose to 84.63 million tonne (MT) in June. The country's coal output was 73.92 MT in June last fiscal, according to provisional figures of the government. PTI

Countries that lowered their premature death count

8 Even as premature deaths due to cancer have come down across three-fourths of the world, less than 10 countries are likely to meet the related United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Target 3.4, according to a study in *The Lancet Oncology*. PTI

The endosulfan victims whose details will be re-examined

1,031 The Kerala government said that people excluded from the endosulfan victims' list in Kasaragod district will be re-examined and those found eligible will be included in the final list. PTI

Amount provided by the U.S. administration to support tech hubs

504 in $ million. The Biden administration said that the funds were provided in implementation grants for a dozen technology hubs in Ohio, Montana, and Nevada, among other locations. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On improving rural mobile connectivity

Even though cellular networks seem omnipresent, their deployment and use vary significantly between urban and rural areas. According to the latest Telecom Subscription Data, urban tele-density in the country is 127% while rural tele-density is 58%

EXPLAINER

Pranav Jha

Mobile devices have become an integral part of our lives. We use them to communicate with our friends and family, conduct financial transactions through UPI, connect to the Internet, etc. The connectivity for these devices is enabled via a cellular (mobile) wireless network. A cellular network, such as a 5G network, includes a set of network equipment connected by communication links. They work together to move data between different devices and to other networks such as the Internet. A cellular network can be divided into two sub-networks: the Access Network (AN) and the Core Network (CN).

What are access and core networks?

The AN consists of base stations that provide wireless connectivity to mobile devices in a limited geographical area, called the coverage area. A network operator usually installs base stations across the length and breadth of the region to be covered. These stations can be seen in the form of towers with boxes with antennae on top.

The CN of a cellular network has equipment that provides connectivity to other networks, such as the Internet. Unlike AN base stations, the CN operates in a central location, and possibly far from any of the base stations. The CN is linked to a base station by an optical fibre link called the backhaul. Data from a user's device must pass through both a base station and the CN to reach its desired destination, such as the Internet or another user's device. Even if two users are nearby and are connected to the same or adjacent base stations, the data must pass through the central CN. The CN is essential to support user mobility, a key feature offered by cellular networks.

What impedes rural connectivity?

Even though cellular networks seem omnipresent, their deployment and use vary significantly between urban and rural areas. This is especially true in developing countries like India. According to the latest Telecom Subscription Data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, urban tele-density in the country is 127% while rural tele-density is 58%. Put another way, on average, an urban user has one or more mobile connections (1.27) whereas only one out of two rural users (0.58) is connected. This data suggests an urban-rural digital divide. The situation in most other developing countries is similar or worse.

An important factor impeding the deployment and/or use of cellular networks in rural areas is the relatively lower income of the people here. A big chunk of the rural population finds mobile services unaffordable. Other relevant characteristics of rural areas are lower population density, populations distributed in clusters (villages) often separated by vast empty spaces, and remoteness. Taking fibre infrastructure to a far-off village, say, in the Himalayas, to connect the base station there may neither be cost-effective nor easy.

These features of the rural landscape require a communication system that can efficiently cover a large geographical area – yet there has been limited research focus on these factors.

Most existing cellular networks cater to urban populations in economically developed countries, for example, the 5G network focuses on providing 10 Gbps data rate and 1 ms latency. Rural connectivity lags far behind.

What is the IEEE 2061-2024 standard?

Our research group at IIT Bombay, led by Professor Abhay Karandikar, has been working on affordable rural connectivity for many years and some of the solutions developed in our lab form the basis of the 2061-2024 standard. The standard defines a wireless network architecture for affordable broadband access in rural areas. It was approved on June 6 by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The IEEE-2061 network also includes a CN and AN similar to cellular networks. However, the IEEE-2061 AN is heterogenous wherein different types of base stations coexist: it includes base stations covering large coverage areas – called macro-BS – supplemented by small coverage area Wi-Fi. It is different from the 5G network, where the AN is homogeneous comprising base stations of the same type and typically smaller coverage area.

The macro-BS in IEEE-2061 can be built with any cellular technology that can support a large coverage area. While the macro-BS provides large-area coverage but possibly lower data rate, Wi-Fi is deployed within villages to provide high-speed connectivity. A key capability of the system is that it allows a device to move from a Wi-Fi based connectivity to a macro-BS connectivity without any service disruption. This is enabled by an integrated AN control functionality in the IEEE-2061 network. As wireless systems evolve, both legacy and new technologies – including 4G, 5G, 6G, Wi-Fi and networks – will coexist and complement each other. In such a heterogenous network, an integrated AN control functionality like the one included in the IEEE-2061 standard will help avoid issues like call drops.

What is a middle-mile network?

Further, the IEEE-2061 standard proposes the use of a multi-hop wireless middle-mile network to extend connectivity to areas where optical-fibre links are not available. A multi-hop wireless middle-mile provides cost-effective connectivity over long distances, eliminating the need for costly and difficult-to-deploy optical fibres. An IEEE-2061 network can flexibly use one or more technologies like satellites, or long-range Wi-Fi for the middle-mile.

The IEEE-2061 AN also has a direct and alternate path to the Internet, unlike the (4G/5G) network, where Internet connectivity is possible only via the CN. As mentioned earlier, the CN in cellular networks is required to support user mobility. But many mobile network users today are stationary, this is all the more characteristic of rural areas. Therefore, a direct connection to the Internet from an AN, avoiding the centralised CN, would be a more optimal solution for such users. Unlike the 4G/5G networks, an IEEE-2061 network can also avoid the CN for communication between nearby users, which can be directly routed within AN instead. This is like going directly from Belagavi to Hubballi (AN to AN) instead of going to Bengaluru first and then to Hubballi (AN-CN-AN).

In sum, the IEEE 2061-2024 is the second IEEE standard to come out of the research efforts of Prof. Karandikar's lab at IIT Bombay. It follows on the heels of IEEE 1930.1-2022, a standard on "beyond 5G networks", which also incorporated some of our research ideas as its key elements.

If adopted, IEEE 2061 can help provide affordable connectivity to rural populations. Its novel concepts, including the CN bypass, and integrated AN control may also pave the way towards a scalable mobile network in the future.

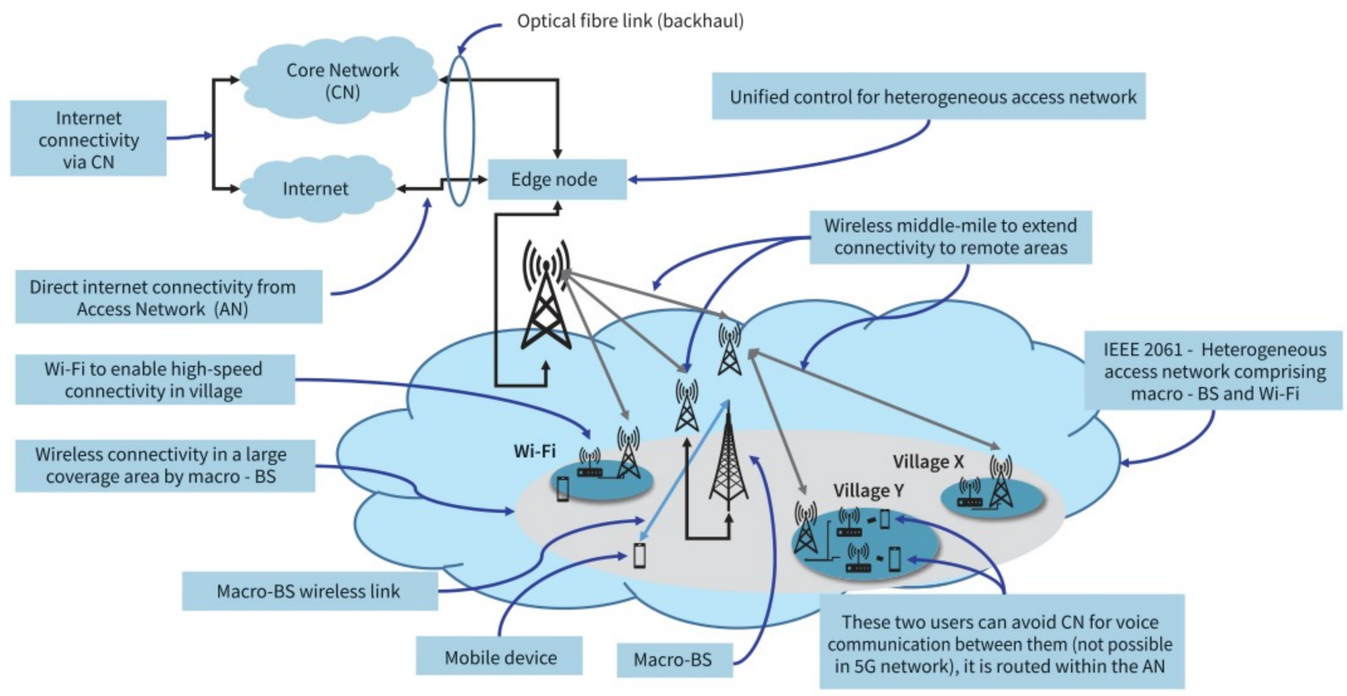
Pranav Jha is a scientist with IIT Bombay and the chair of the IEEE working group 'Frugal 5G Networks', which developed the IEEE-2061-2024 standard.

Connecting to the remote

The IEEE 2061-2024 standard defines a wireless network architecture for affordable broadband access in rural areas. It was approved on June 6 by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

No signal: A boy looks for a mobile network from his tree house in Baromile village in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam on June 11, 2020. RITU RAJ KONWAR

IEE - 2061 Network (Frugal 5G network)



THE GIST

- An important factor impeding the deployment and/or use of cellular networks in rural areas is the relatively lower income of the people here. A big chunk of the rural population finds mobile services unaffordable.
- The IEEE-2061 standard proposes the use of a multi-hop wireless middle-mile network to extend connectivity to areas where optical-fibre links are not available.
- If adopted, IEEE 2061 can help provide affordable connectivity to rural populations. Its novel concepts, including the CN bypass, and integrated AN control may also pave the way towards a scalable mobile network in the future.

KMF hits milestone procurement in 50th year, but faces marketing challenges

On June 28, one crore litre of Nandini milk was procured across cooperative societies and was followed by a similar quantum the next day too

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) that markets the popular Nandini brand of milk and milk products recorded a milestone of procuring one crore litres of milk from its members in a day recently. In its 50th year since inception, the milk behemoth has been scouting newer markets as increased procurement of milk brings with it marketing challenges.

The milestone procurement was reported on June 28, when 1,00,05,000 litres were procured across the village-level milk cooperative societies and was followed by a similar quantum the next day too. Currently, the cumulative average of milk procurement stands at 98 lakh litres.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah felicitating a farmer and performing puja to cows at an event in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Fact sheet

- KMF started as Karnataka Dairy Development Corporation (KDDC) to implement World Bank-funded project in **1974.**
- It was renamed Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) in **1984.**
- During 2023-24, KMF was voted as the fourth best brand in terms of value in the country; reported turnover of **₹22,000 crore.**
- Recent survey put Nandini's brand value at **$940 million** and is the fourth largest in Indian food and drinks sector.

KMF's competition

While procurement of milk grew by 14% this year, the sale of milk and milk products marketed by KMF grew by 10% even as the federation is competing with other milk brands in south and west Indian cities.

The recent decision of KMF to provide 50 ml extra in each half and one litre sachets for an additional cost of ₹2 is being seen as a measure to reduce the burden on the federation that converts additional milk to skimmed milk powder (SMP).

Currently, of the nearly one crore litres that it procures, KMF sells about 65 lakh litres in the form of liquid milk, including UHT Goodlife, and curd. While about eight lakh litres are used (to convert to milk powder) for the Ksheera Bhagya scheme that provides milk to schoolchildren, another six lakh litres are used to make milk products such as ice creams and sweets.

"The decision to provide additional 50 ml was to benefit the farmers since the KMF does not reject any milk brought to its societies. The additional 50 ml translates to about three lakh litres a day. This measure also helps the KMF save about ₹37 crore per month that it otherwise would have spent on converting milk to powder," a senior KMF official said.

This growth is in contrast to last year when the KMF could not meet the demand for ghee and shortage of milk was reported. "We had a shortfall of 10% in milk procurement resulting in shortage of ghee and milk last year. The shortage of milk was about seven lakh litres a day."

SMP conversion

While the KMF converts about 21 lakh remaining liquid milk daily to SMP at its plants in Ramanagar and Chennarayapatna, the official said that the current SMP rate is far below the cost incurred on conversion.

Eight lakh litres of milk a day apportioned to Ksheera Bhagya is also converted to milk powder that yield an approximate 3,000 tonnes a month.

"Because of rainfall, milk availability is in surplus and demand for SMP has come down. The SMP rate is hovering around ₹210 a kg now whereas the cost of conversion is ₹260 a kg. The price of SMP six months ago was in the range of ₹245 to ₹260 per kg," the official said.

While the official acknowledged intense competition from private milk dairies, the Karnataka Milk Federation, according to him, has been expanding in the middle eastern countries while expanding its presence in south Indian cities along with Mumbai, Pune, and the Vidharba region of Maharashtra.

Govt. to clear dues soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will soon clear ₹700 crore dues towards the financial incentive scheme of ₹5 per litre to farmers in the State.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who took part in the celebration of achieving one crore litre procurement by KMF, said: "The BJP government left huge dues that we are clearing now. The government gives about ₹5 crore towards the financial incentive scheme to the farmers daily. Approximately, it costs around ₹1,800 crore annually."

Amid power tussle, DKS completes four years as KPCC chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D.K. Shivakumar

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday completed four years as president of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC).

He assumed charge as KPCC chief amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and played a key role in the assumption of power by the Congress in Karnataka after the 2023 State Legislative Assembly polls.

In the midst of him completing four years, a section of the Congress leaders and loyalists of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been demanding the replacement of Mr. Shivakumar as the State Congress chief. Home Minister G. Parameshwara said there was nothing wrong with party leaders seeking the replacement of Mr. Shivakumar as he heads multiple posts. There is also a demand for creation of multiple Deputy Chief Minister posts, in an alleged attempt to curtail Mr. Shivakumar, who is the only one holding the post now.

Countering the move, loyalists of Mr. Shivakumar have been demanding the replacement of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. In a closed-door meeting of the KPCC office-bearers on Monday, Mr. Shivakumar said he will not budge to attempts being made to replace him as the party's president.

Loyalists of Mr. Siddaramaiah have staked a claim for the change in the KPCC chief after the party's debacle in the Vokkaliga belt. They claim that leaders of other backward communities, SCs, and STs should get an opportunity to head the party. Ministers K.N. Rajanna, Satish Jarkiholi, and M.B. Patil, and MLA Vinay Kulkarni are among the leaders who are aspiring to become KPCC chief.

Speaking at Channapatna on Tuesday, Mr. Shivakumar said that he would rather focus on good work than worry about "unconstructive criticism."

No complete bar in law to transfer person appointed in HK region cadre to posts outside the region: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There is no complete bar in law to transfer a person, appointed against the local cadre quota in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region, from being posted outside the region in public interest, said the High Court of Karnataka.

The court pointed out that Clause 5(2)(b) of the Karnataka Public Employment (Reservation in Appointment for Hyderabad-Karnataka Region) Order, 2013, specifically provides that "nothing shall prevent the State government from making provision for the transfer (or deputation) of a person from one local cadre to another cadre where no qualified or suitable person is available in the latter cadre or where such transfer is otherwise considered necessary in the public interest."

A Division Bench comprising Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice Anant Ramanth Hegde passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by S. Nandeesha, a sub-registrar.

What petitioner said

The petitioner had questioned an order passed by the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal in favour of N. Srikanth, also a sub-registrar, who was initially appointed in the Hyderabad-Karnataka Region cadre, by setting aside his transfer from Mysuru and appointing the petitioner to his place.

The tribunal had held that Mr. Srikanth's transfer was premature as it was contrary to fixed tenure guidelines sans recording reasons besides rejecting petitioner's claim that latter could not have been posted outside Hyderabad-Karnataka Region for the first 10 years of his service.

While upholding the Tribunal's order, the Bench said that "Clause 5(2)(d) of the 2013 order also provides that the Governor may ensure that the persons borne on the local cadre at gazetted levels are not discriminated against in being posted anywhere in Karnataka."

After analysing Article 371-J of the Constitution, and the Government Order issued under this provision and the transfer guidelines and circulars governing the Hyderabad-Karnataka Region, the Bench made it clear that posting outside Hyderabad-Karnataka region in the present case would be one "issued in administrative exigencies and in public interest."

Prajwal Revanna case: Delegation of activists from Hassan meet CM

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A delegation of activists representing Hassan Zilla Janapara Chalavaligala Okkoota, a forum of pro-people organisations in Hassan, met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Tuesday and appealed to him for justice for survivors of the sexual abuse case allegedly committed by former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna.

Writer Roopa Hassan, journalist R.P. Venkateshamurthy, CPM leaders Dharmesh, K.S. Vimala, Vijay Kumar of Madiga Dandora Horata Samiti, Mamatha Shivu, activist, met the Chief Minister and submitted a memorandum.

Members of the delegation said this was a rare and complex case of sexual abuse. Women survivors had undergone mental trauma and faced difficulties inside the family and outside as well. The State government should ensure legal process in such a way that the identities of survivors are not published.

Some of the survivors belonged to economically and socially backward sections, they deserve additional support from the government. The government must arrange for counselling, legal advice and support for survivors, they said.

They also urged the State government to take action against those who leaked the objectionable videos and allowed it to go viral. The delegation also appealed to Mr. Siddaramaiah to instruct the police to ensure the videos were deleted on all platforms on the internet. Further, they demanded setting up a special court to hear the case. The investigation by SIT should be completed at the earliest.

Quadruple murder: HC denies bail to accused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka refused to grant bail to Praveen Arun Chougule, 40, who allegedly murdered four members of a family at Nejaru in Udupi district in November last year.

Referring to circumstantial evidences cited against him in the charge sheet, the court observed that "even though there are no eyewitnesses in the incident, the prosecution is placing reliance on all these circumstantial evidences, which are strong enough to point an accusing finger towards the accused, at this stage."

Justice M.G. Uma passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by Chougule seeking bail. The petitioner-accused had allegedly stabbed to death Haseena, her daughters Afnan, 23, Aynaz, 21, and son Asim, 12, and injured Haseena's mother-in-law Hazeera. Chougule, who was a cabin crew of Air India Express, liked his colleague Aynaz and decided to kill her after she refused to entertain his advances.

ST corporation scam: BJP to lay siege to CM's residence seeking his resignation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok says Minister B. Nagendra was only a small part of scam while Siddaramaiah had a direct role

The BJP is set to lay siege to the official residence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday demanding his resignation in connection with financial irregularities in Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation. The protest will be spearheaded by BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok.

Announcing it at a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Mr. Ashok alleged that there was direct involvement of Mr. Siddaramaiah, who also holds the finance portfolio, in the the Valmiki ST Development Corporation's irregularities.

Referring to the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra in connection with financial irregularities to the tune of ₹187 crore in the corporation, Mr. Ashok said Mr. Nagendra was only a small part of the scam while Mr. Siddaramaiah had a direct role.

He alleged that Mr. Siddaramaiah had tried to transfer the money to the Congress Central leaders fearing that he may have to give up his post to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Apology sought

Meanwhile addressing a separate press conference in Bengaluru, Mr. Vijayendra demanded that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tender a public apology to Hindus for "hurting" their sentiments by calling them violent.

Accusing the Congress leaders of pursuing "anti-Hindu politics", he maintained that Mr. Rahul's remarks were only a continuation of the attitude of his party.

BJP State executive tomorrow

The BJP is set to hold a special State executive in Bengaluru on Thursday in which the party will analyse the reasons for its defeat in the nine Lok Sabha constituencies in Karnataka, among other issues.

According to BJP State general secretary Nandish Reddy, the defeated candidates, party functionaries concerned, and MLAs as well as former MLAs of these constituencies would be present.

Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari will attend the executive in which party's poll incharge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal will also participate.

As many as 1,745 delegates have been invited to attend the executive, which would be held at the Bengaluru Palace Grounds, he noted.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP Head Office, Ground floor, Annex-3 building, N.R.Square, Bangalore-02.

No: DCF/TENDER/03/2024-25 Dated: 02-07-2024

Tender Notification (Only Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

The Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP, Bangalore on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, BBMP invites Works Package tenders under (15th Finance commission "Creation of nurseries at different locations in BBMP layout by forest Department of BBMP to carry out new plantation across Bengaluru in increase green cover") from Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with Class-1 CPWD / KPWD/FOREST/ Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract.

The tender schedule is as mentioned below:

Sl. No	Name of Work	EMD Amount (in Lakhs)
	15th Finance commission Creation of nurseries at different locations in BBMP layout by forest Department of BBMP to carry out new plantation across Bengaluru in increase green cover	
1.	Basic infrastructure and development of Bommanahalli zone kuddlu nusery. Estimate Amount (in Lakhs) : **380.00**	15.00
2.	Creation and development of Dasarahalli zone Sehettihalli new nusery. Estimate Amount (in Lakhs) : **400.00**	
3.	Basic infrastructure and development of Mahadevapura zone Kempapura nusery.Estimate Amount (in Lakhs) : **70.00**	
4.	Raising and maintenance of seedlings in Bommanahalli zone kuddlu nusery, yelahanka zone Atturu nusery, South Zone, Madivala nursery & Mahadevapura zone Kempapura nusery Estimate Amount (in Lakhs) : **150.00**	

Total tender estimate Amountm : 1000.00

Time Schedule :
1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from eProcurement website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** From : **08.07.2024 Onwards. 2)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in eProcurement. : **12/07/2024 up to 5:00 PM. 3)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **12/07/2024 at 05:00 PM** at the following venue: Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP Head Office, Ground floor, Annex-3 building, N.R.Square, Bangalore-02 e-mail: **defbbmp12@gmail.com. 4)** Last Date and Time for uploading of tenders in eProcurement portal for : **22/07/2024 up to 5:00 PM. 5)** Date and Time of Online Opening of tender : **23/07/2024 at 5:30 PM. 6)** Place of Opening of tender : **Online at e-Procurement portal. 7)** Address for Communication : Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP Head Office, Ground floor, Annex-3 building. N.R.Square, Bangalore-02 e-mail: **defbbmp12@gmail.com**

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP.

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008.Phone:28191890/28190259; Fax: 044 -28190636

Sl. No	Online Tender no. / Rate Contract (RC) No./ item with qty./ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Last date Submission	Opening
1	RC Tender No.E1181/DEN/TNGDC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt:21.06.2024- Digitalized Orthopantomogram (1) – Rs.2,290/-	10.07.2024 to 25.07.2024	18.07.2024 11.00 AM	26.07.2024 11.00 AM	26.07.2024 12.00 Noon
2	RC Tender No.E1182/SUC/TNHSP/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt:21.06.2024- Suction Apparatus AC/DC Manual (300) – Rs.5,725/-	10.07.2024 to 25.07.2024	18.07.2024 11.30 AM	26.07.2024 11.00 AM	26.07.2024 12.00 Noon
3	RC Tender No.E1183/F-COT/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt:21.06.2024- Fowlers Cot (1156) & Semi Fowlers Cot (24) – Rs.5,725/-	11.07.2024 to 29.07.2024	19.07.2024 11.00 AM	30.07.2024 11.00 AM	30.07.2024 12.00 Noon
4	RC Tender No.E1183/FUR/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt:21.06.2024- Crash Cart (498), Emergency Recovery Trolley (41), Dressing Trolley (173), Spine Board (36) & Scoop Board (17) – Rs.5,725/-	11.07.2024 to 29.07.2024	19.07.2024 11.30 AM	30.07.2024 11.00 AM	30.07.2024 12.00 Noon

For details visit **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and TNMSC website **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in**
DIPR/2166/TENDER/2024
General Manager (Equipment)

TELANGANA TECHNOLOGY SERVICES LTD.
Tender call notice for **"Procurement of Pre-Printed PVC 64K SCOSTA Certified Smart Cards for Telangana Transport Department (TGTD)."**
Time schedule of various tender related events:-
Bid calling date: 03.07.2024. Bid closing date/time: 20.07.2024, 03.00 PM. Bid Opening date/time: 20.07.2024, 03.30 PM. Bid Document Fee: Rs.25,000/- in favour of the MD, TSTSL. Contact Email id's: mngdirector-tgts@telangana.gov.in, rpushpa-tgts@telangana.gov.in, avrnreddy-tgts@telangana.gov.in Tender Reference No. TGTS/IIP/190/TRANS-64K-SC/2024
For further details regarding detailed Tender Notification and specifications please visit **http://www.tgts.telangana.gov.in / www.tender.telangana.gov.in**
Sd/- Managing Director
T.G. Technology Services Ltd.
R.O. No. : 144-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Iran: limited democracy, unlimited theocracy

Iran's political system — which has been designed in such a way that the Shia clergy has ultimate authority in all critical matters related to the state, even as elections are held in regular intervals — is a child of revolution

Stanly Johny

There's only a walking distance from the Imam Khomeini Square, the Qajar-era 19th century neighbourhood of the Iranian capital which used to be called Maidan-e-Toopkhaneh, to Ebrat Museum on Yarjani Street. A three-storey structure with torture wings, countless cells, echo corridors and iron doors, the building, designed by German engineers in the 1930s, was the headquarters of a section of the Shah's infamous secret police, SAVAK, before the 1979 revolution. All the dark corridors lead to a circular, roofless inner courtyard that's awash in sunlight. Sculptures of prisoners are hung from the iron grills of the courtyard. SAVAK used to hang prisoners on the grills and torture them – their screams would echo across the corridors and their suffering would be displayed for those in the courtyard. The museum has the images and names of the hundreds of inmates it once held – one of them was Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the current Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic.

Complete control: A woman walks past posters of Iranian presidential candidate Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran on July 2. AFP

History repeats

The Iranian authorities turned the prison into a museum in 2002, to showcase the brutalities of the Shah's royal dictatorship. For the regime, the museum is a microcosm of all the evils of the monarchy from which Iranians were "liberated" by the Islamic Revolution. But four decades after the revolution, repeated protests accuse the Islamic regime of the same repressive reign from which it claims to have liberated the Iranians. When discontent grew at home, the system's legitimacy was questioned. Voters' turnout in Iran's presidential and parliamentary elections started shrinking to new lows. In the 2021 presidential elections, in which hardliner Ebrahim Raisi won, voters' turnout was 48%, a record low. The country was forced to hold a snap presidential elections in June after President Raisi was killed in a helicopter crash. While Mr. Khamenei asked Iranians to overwhelmingly participate in the elections, the turnout fell to 39.9%, down from over 80% in 2009.

A unique system

Iran's unique political system – which has been designed in such a way that the Shia clergy has ultimate authority in all critical matters related to the state, even as elections are held in regular intervals – is a child of the revolution. While it's popularly called the "Islamic revolution", the anti-Shah popular movement was not only Islamic. True, Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini, who, while in exile in Iraq's Najaf, had called for the Shah's ouster, and became the embodiment of the mass agitations in the 1970s. But Iranians from different political sections, including nationalists, liberals, leftists and trade unionists, had actively joined the movement, seeking freedom from the Shah's dictatorship.

The Shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, who had to briefly flee the country in the early 1950s and was restored after the CIA helped the monarchists orchestrate a coup against the democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, was more or less detached from the political reality on ground. He orchestrated grand ceremonies celebrating the monarchy (such as the extravagant 1971 celebration of "the 2,500th year of the Iranian monarchy" spending some $100 million), banned all political parties except the monarchist Resurgence Party (Hezb-e-Rastakhiz) and assumed himself the title of Aryan Sun (Aryamehr) – apolitical and spiritual guide of Iran. When an increasingly isolated Shah tried to consolidate more and more powers in his hands, SAVAK ran amok in the country, rounding up political dissidents.

Iranians are no strangers to political rebellion and defiance. In 1896, Naser al-Din Shah, the fourth Shah of Qajar Iran, was assassinated inside a mosque in Tehran. The assassination and its aftermath would eventually lead to the Constitutional Revolution of 1905-1911, which led to the establishment of a Parliament in Persia. Reza Shah Pahlavi ignored this history of rebellion when he unleashed his forces on increasingly disgruntled protesters, which eventually led to his own downfall. When the Shah fled the country in January 1979, Khomeini was in Paris. He landed in Tehran's Mehrabad airport, which was controlled by the revolutionaries, on February 1, 1979. They turned a disused girls' school in central Tehran into a make-shift headquarters of the Revolutionary Council. And one of the first things Khomeini did was to form a paramilitary force – the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. But the Islamists could not ignore other sections of the revolution completely. So, Khomeini ushered in a new system that would have an elected President and Parliament, while the clerics would remain firmly in control. He promised an Islamic revolutionary government based on Sharia, a model which he called Vilayat-e Faqih (Guardianship of the Faqih, or the Islamic Jurist).

Clerical control

Iran's state has both elected and unelected branches and the unelected branch is more powerful than the former. The President, Parliament (Majles) and the Assembly of Experts are directly elected, while the Supreme Leader, the Guardian Council and the Expediency Council are appointed by the clergy. The President is the head of the government, which is in charge of running the day-to-day affairs of the country, but is not the head of the state. The Supreme Leader is the most powerful person in the country and is both the political leader and spiritual guide of the Islamic Republic.

The presidential term is four years and Presidents cannot have more than two consecutive terms. The election process itself is largely considered fair (though there were disputes, such as the 2009 elections), but all the candidates are vetted by the Guardian Council, which usually disqualifies an overwhelming majority of the candidates. The 290-member Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) has the authority to legislate. But all the Bills the Majles passes should go to the unelected Guardian Council, which would vet whether the Bill is in compliance with the Islamic Constitution and values. The powerful Guardian Council has 12 members, a combination of six religious experts, who will directly be appointed by the Supreme Leader, and six Islamic legal jurists, nominated by the Chief Justice (who in turn is appointed by the Supreme Leader). So the Supreme Leader's office has direct or indirect control over the Guardian Council, which oversees the elections, vets the candidates and has a veto over Parliament.

Absolute authority

Unlike the President, the Supreme Leader doesn't have any fixed term. Since the 1979 revolution, Iran has had only two Supreme Leaders – Khomeini (who died in 1989) and Khamenei. The Constitution mandates the 88-member Assembly of Experts to elect the Supreme Leader. The Assembly, which also has the authority to oversee and dismiss the Supreme Leader, is directly elected, but the candidates are strictly vetted by the Guardian Council, whose members are directly or indirectly picked by the Supreme Leader. If there are legal disputes between the elected Majles and the unelected Guardian Council, the 45-member Expediency Council, which advises the Supreme Leader, will have ultimate adjudicating powers. And all 45 members of the Council are appointed by the Supreme Leader, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. In essence, the Islamic Constitution ensures that the Supreme Leader and the clerical establishment stay firmly in charge of all branches of the state.

Principalists and reformists

Iran's political class is broadly divided into two categories – principalists (also hardliners) and reformists. The principalists make up the conservative bloc that enjoys the support of the clergy, whereas reformists advocate political and social reforms from within. The election of Mohammad Khatami as President in 1997 was a critical moment for reformist politics. But Mr. Khatami, an influential and popular reformist, failed to usher in any major changes in the system. Hassan Rouhani, the former President, was also a reformist, while his incumbent, Ebrahim Raisi, was a principalist. As no candidate won 50% vote in the first round of the presidential election on June 28, Iran will have a run off between the top two vote-getters--reformist Masoud Pezeshkian and conservative Saeed Jalili—on July 5.

When Khomeini established his clerical rule after the revolution, many expected the new regime to collapse. On the contrary, Khomeini purged internal dissent and consolidated the clergy's grip when the country was fighting an eight-year long war with Iraq. Four decades later, the system the Ayatollah built has started showing signs of age, with repeated mass protests, state violence, and declining public interests in the electoral process, overshadowed by an unending economic crisis. But Iran's rulers seem undeterred, and try to project stability and continuity.

The article, published on September 28, 2022, has been updated.

KEYWORD

How can state capacity be measured?

Prashanth Perumal

State capacity refers to the ability of any state to successfully deliver what are generally considered to be public goods and services to its citizens. State capacity is considered by many public policy experts to be the major factor that explains why some countries are rich or developed while other countries remain underdeveloped.

The most common way in which the capacity of a state to deliver on its commitments is measured is by the way of its ability to collect a sufficient amount of tax revenues. This is because any state requires tax revenues to deliver public goods and services. By this measure, countries with a higher tax to GDP ratio, which typically turn out to be rich countries, may be considered to possess greater state capacity than other countries with lower ability to generate tax revenues. Many also urge developing countries like India to boost their tax to GDP ratio so as to build state capacity.

Power in numbers

Public policy experts may also look into other indicators such as the number of people employed by a certain state to measure its capacity. So, for example, the number of police officials per capita could be seen as an indicator of the capacity of the state to maintain law and order. States with a very low number of police officials per capita, it is believed, may be unable to establish monopoly of violence in their territory, leading to instability that adversely affects their economy. Similarly, the number of courts and judges per capita can be seen as an indicator of how well a state can deliver justice to citizens.

Some critics, however, caution against the definition of state capacity in terms of the ability of a certain state to collect tax revenues or the number of staff it can hire to deliver essential public goods and services to its citizens. This is because more efficient states may be able to deliver essential public goods with lower taxes and fewer staff than less efficient ones. Critics, therefore, argue that the number of people employed by a certain state and the amount of taxes collected by it only reflect its size and not the state's effectiveness in delivering essential public goods and services.

Critics such as U.S. economist Bryan Caplan also point out that state capacity, as defined by the size of the state, is claimed by public policy experts to be the reason behind the success of certain countries without establishing the necessary causal link between the two. In other words, they argue that the success of rich countries is tautologically attributed to strong state capacity the same way that the failure of poor countries is attributed to weak state capacity. They point out that it could well be that strong economic growth allowed developed countries to fund states that are large in size; in that case, the economic success of the developed world cannot really be attributed to a larger state. A better way to measure state capacity, critics believe, is to gauge the ability of a certain state, regardless of its size as measured by its tax collections or headcount, to uphold the rule of law by delivering efficient justice to citizens.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Here is a quiz on some of the important events that happened on July 3

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
This movie, directed by Robert Zemeckis and starring Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly, was released in American theatres on this day. It went on to become a huge hit. Which was the film?

QUESTION 2
This American singer and songwriter died on July 3, 1971. He was also the lead vocalist of the rock band 'The Doors'. Name the singer.

QUESTION 3
On very similar lines, another musician was found dead on this day in 1969. He was the founder of the band 'The Rolling Stones'. Name the musician.

QUESTION 4
This American actor, considered a Hollywood icon was born on this day in 1962. He is known for action and sci-fi films, often performing his own risky stunts. Name the actor.

QUESTION 5
On this day in 1973, this singer retired his stage persona Ziggy Stardust with the surprise announcement that it is "the last show that we'll ever do" on the last day of the Ziggy Stardust Tour. Who was the singer?

Visual question:
This celebrated writer was born on this day in 1883. Identify him. There is a term that entered English to describe absurd situations like those depicted in his writing. What is it called?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This Speaker of the Lok Sabha served twice but neither term was completed fully. **Ans: G. M. C. Balayogi**
2. The first Speaker of the Lok Sabha to serve two terms. **Ans: Balram Jhakar**
3. This former Speaker became the President of India. **Ans: Neelam Sanjeev Reddy**
4. This person presides over the Speaker's office if the Speaker isn't present. **Ans: Deputy Speaker**
5. Can the Speaker vote for any legislative business? **Ans: The Speaker does not vote in the first instance but exercises a casting vote in case of a tie**
6. This politician from Tamil Nadu has served as the deputy Speaker twice. **Ans: Thambidurai**
Visual: The first woman Speaker of Lok Sabha. **Ans: Meira Kumar**
Early Bird: Seema Das

Word of the day

Truculent:
defiantly aggressive

Usage: It was a truculent speech against the new government.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/truculentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈtɹʌkjʊlənt/

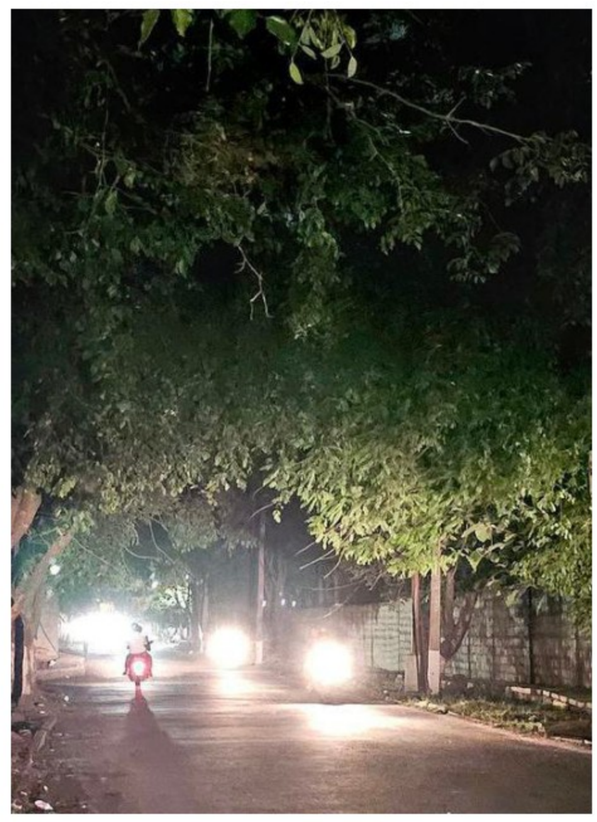
For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Blinded by headlights, safety takes a fatal turn

The easy availability of a wide range of LED headlights exceeding 100W has played havoc on the roads, with law enforcers often caught napping

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

A file photo of a vehicle with high beam headlight in Bengaluru.



The maximum permissible headlight for low beams is 55W and for high beams is 60W.

Struggling to negotiate a rain-ravaged, rickety, ill-maintained road, the last thing a motorist would want is a blinding headlight coming right at him. But this is exactly what has amplified the risks of city commute, as an avalanche of vehicles with high-beam, glaring headlights invades the roads with no real regulation in sight.

Clearly, such headlights increase the risk of a crash at night, as articulated recently by the Additional Director General of Police (Traffic and Road Safety) Alok Kumar. Mounting road accidents have now pushed him to launch a State-wide special drive from this month.

Drivers found violating rules will be booked under section 177 of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act.

The maximum permissible headlight for low beams is 55W and 60W for high beams. Typically, low beams are mandated within city limits while high beams are to be used on highways with no streetlights and poor visibility. But the easy availability of a wide range of LED headlights exceeding well over 100W has played havoc on the roads, with law enforcers often caught napping.

Risks multiplied manifold

On highways, the blinding glare from an oncoming vehicle can be disastrous at night if the safety standards are not strictly adhered to.

This could get riskier during monsoons. But in the city, the multiplicity of narrow, single lane roads and reckless driving increases the danger manifold.

While heavy vehicles are found using these high beams, the trend has spread to the mass market with two-wheelers and auto rickshaws sporting such lights.

White LED tail lights and even disco brake lights, seen on many vehicles, could prove extremely dangerous, says a concerned motorcyclist. LED upgrades on reflector headlamps scatter the light, blinding every road-user in the vicinity, he points out.

A magisterial notification had banned the use of high beams in Bengaluru City, reminds M.A. Saleem, Director General of Police, who was associated with traffic and road safety for years.

He says, "High beams are required on highways where you have to see for a longer distance, and the distance between vehicles is longer. But they are a nuisance on city roads, particularly on single lane ones where the glare blinds the opposite vehicles."

Tampering, not standards, is the issue

Standards are prescribed for each and every part of the vehicle, he points out. "Specifications for the headlights and tail lights are clearly provided by the Central Government, and all manufacturers have to follow that. Tampering is the issue." Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act mandates a penalty of ₹500 for the first offence and up to ₹1,000 for subsequent offences.

Until 1989, motorists were required by law to fix a black spot at the centre of the headlight panel to reduce the light intensity. This rule was taken out in the new Act, since it was a manufacturing requirement. Many vehicles had half shades on their headlamps till about 2000 before they were weeded out, as Saleem recalls.

So how does a high intensity headlamp actually impact the driver? Ophthalmologists draw attention to the disorientation high beam LED lights can cause to the eyes. The sudden appearance of a high beam flash while driving can be so shocking that it could cause temporary blindness, a recipe for a crash. The driver loses control of the steering and the vehicle takes a fatal turn, endangering many lives.

Drivers' sight issues

But there are also other sight issues that aggravate the impact of a high beam glare. "Long hours of driving an AC car, when the AC vents are always on your face, dries up the tear film. This film is one of the first refracting surfaces of your eye. When it gets blocked, it becomes something like a fogged glass. When light hits the eye, it reflects," explains Dr. Rohit Shetty, Chairman of Narayana Nethralaya and a senior ophthalmologist.

Besides, about 30% of people have issues with the eye muscles. "This is a very important but little understood and diagnosed issue. You need those muscles to be very active all the time. But for many people, the muscles go into fatigue very early, causing binocular single vision. They see multiple images as one. Overlapping happens a lot in the eye retina and in the brain. The smallest of disparity can cause this fusion issue, where the brain receives images in a very erratic way," he says.

With headlight glare amplifying the risk of accident fatalities, the spotlight has to shift on these rarely diagnosed eye sight issues. As Dr. Rohit warns, "Fusion issues can happen due to extreme amounts of stress, work pressure and other factors which all of us go through daily. If these issues are not addressed seriously, there is a chance that these people will one day end up having an accident or judgment error become an issue."

This only strengthens the findings of a nationwide study, "Assessment of driver vision functions in relation to their crash involvement in India," jointly conducted by researchers of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru; Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi; Central Institute of Road Transport, Pune; and National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirapalli.

Minimum visual requirements

Covering 387 Indian drivers from multiple organisations, age groups and driving experience, the 2016 study found that of the 160 Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) drivers tested, 101 had at least one visual defect. "A high 63.75% of the drivers did not satisfy the minimum vision requirements for driving. A simple comparison of the road crash histories of the drivers to the vision test results shows that the crash involvement rates are high (up to 87%) in drivers categorized as 'unacceptable.'"

The number of BMTC drivers involved in road crashes with unacceptable vision standards was also high (58.3%) when compared to those with acceptable visual standards, the study report said.

For the general public commuting in cars and two-wheelers, the combination of poor road conditions and safety standards, tampering with headlights could prove unacceptably risky. Somasundaram M., a resident of Sarjapur Road area recalls how the glare from an oncoming vehicle led to a near-fatal accident. "I was driving at low speed, but in the glare could not spot a pedestrian who suddenly crossed the road. He fell on the bonnet and rolled on to my windshield, cracking it."

He is convinced that high beams should be strictly banned within the city, since there are street lights already. "On highways, the high median barricades block the high beam glare of oncoming vehicles on the other lane. But city roads do not have such high medians," he says, indicating the clear need for safety through robust enforcement of existing rules.

Mixed reactions to new park timings; many parks remain shut

Although the new timings were announced by Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar on June 11, several parks in the city are yet to comply

Ananya Mehta
Carol Worth
BENGALURU

The government order states that all parks will remain open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

M.S. Ramaiah Park (ITI Layout).

The order mandating BBMP parks to remain open between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. has received mixed reactions from citizens. Although the new timings were announced by Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar on June 11, several parks in the city are yet to comply.

Citizen Park in R.T. Nagar, Sir M. Vishveshwaraiah Park in Domlur, Richmond Park in Richmond Town and M.S. Ramaiah Park in ITI Layout are amongst those that were still shut when *The Hindu* team visited.

Watch and ward

The order would also mean changes for the staff in charge of park security. The BBMP parks in Bangalore have a "watch and ward" system wherein the guards live on the premises. One such family at Citizen Park residing in the ward accommodation said that they have not yet received any formal notice to keep the park open all day long, but have heard about the changes in timings from one of the parkgoers. They favour the new order as they will not have to open and close the gates multiple times, which would reduce their workload. Sandeep Anirudhan, Founder of Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru, comments on the delays in communication and implementation. "BBMP has serious organisational issues... All the parks are not yet open." Some R.T. Nagar residents are of the opinion that tighter security measures are necessary. Deepa and Swarna, homemakers who have been visiting the park for over a year, said, "The watchman at the park should also make sure that people don't come and sleep here and stay here for a long time." According to them, enforcement of the order would have both advantages and disadvantages. "I feel that it should be open during noon because we housewives finish our work and come here once everything is over to relax." They are apprehensive that couples from coaching institutes and colleges nearby will frequent Citizen Park more. Residents of Richmond Town echo this sentiment. Krithika, who has grown up near the park and has been visiting it almost every day since her childhood, states, "I don't think it's a good thing that the park is open all day because after 7 p.m. you don't really find a good crowd coming in. It's usually couples which isn't a sight you'd want to see with a child. You find at least 10-20 couples sitting here every time."

Two elderly men who are regulars at Richmond Park also complain of "lovebirds" from colleges in the surrounding area and persons who sleep on park benches in the afternoon. The younger population of the city, on the other hand, seems to view these changes more positively. Students of St. Joseph's University near Richmond Park state, "For us, it's awesome. Since we practice dance here, if they're open the whole day, it'll be better for us." The park also serves as a space for music sessions, taekwondo lessons and theatre rehearsals.

A place for rest

Additionally, many drivers and delivery persons, a majority of whom travel up to 200 km a day, often rest at parks between trips and orders. Vinay Sarathi, President of United Food Delivery Partners' Union, explains that the peak hours are usually during lunch – "11 a.m. in the morning till 1 p.m." – when most parks in the city are closed. He further states, "In some places, citizen welfare associations have a say in the park timings. But if the authorities feel that it is benefitting a large section of the population, they should not bend down to any pressures."

Kiran (name changed), who sometimes passes Citizen Park, asks, "Why do they close it? Whenever I've come, I've seen it closed. I find it strange that a park is closed... The point of parks is to be open."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 3, 1974

Karnataka Rice Levy Order Struck Down

Bangalore, July 2: The Karnataka High Court today struck down the Karnataka Rice Procurement (Levy) Order 1974, as ultra vires of the Essential Commodities Act and restrained the Government from enforcing the Order against rice millers.

The impugned Levy Order, which was challenged by a number of rice mill owners, directed every miller to sell to the Government 20 per cent of the total quantity of rice obtained by milling paddy in their rice mills everyday.

Mr. Justice D.M. Chandrasekhar in his judgment said that the purchase price fixed under the Levy Order was not in accordance with Section 3 (2) (C) of the Essential Commodities Act and hence the Order was "bad" and "unforciable".

Restrictions on Admission to Medical Colleges

Bangalore, July 2. The admission to the medical colleges in the State will have to be restricted this year but the Government has not yet taken any decision, according to the Health Minister, Mr. H. Siddaveerappa.

The Union Health Ministry's experts' team, which is to look into the functioning of the medical colleges, is expected to visit the State shortly. (The IMC, had recommended the derecognition of six colleges including two government colleges in Karnataka. Three of these actually had not been recognised at all so far.) There are in all nine medical colleges in the State -- four Government and five private.

‘Being an RJ taught me how to use silence’

With the teaser of *Birbal Case 2* out, RJ-turned-filmmaker MG Sreenivas talks about how his radio skills have complemented his film journey

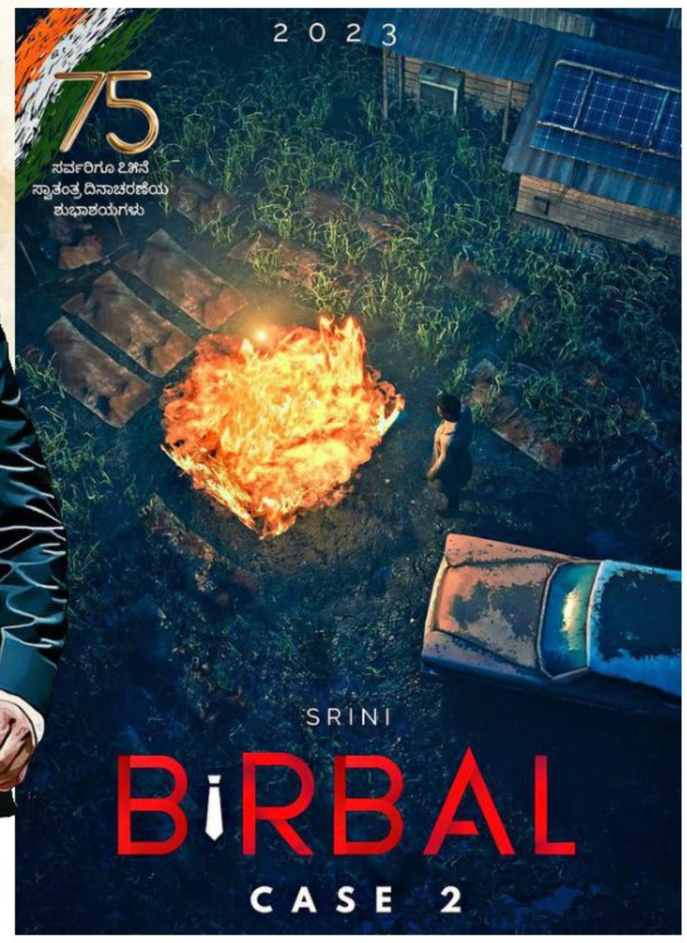
Shilpa Anandraj

MG Srinivas, better known as Sreeni, created a stir with his 2023 film, *Ghost*. The film featuring Shivarajkumar and Malayalam actor, Jayaram, got appreciative nods and applause for its content and screenplay.

Before *Ghost*, he helmed 2019’s *Birbal Trilogy Case 1: Finding Vajramuni*. Now the RJ turned-writer-director-producer has launched the second part of the planned trilogy, *Birbal Case 2*.

Sreeni launched the poster of *Birbal Case 2* a few weeks ago. “Keeping the plotline intense in sequels is challenging, specifically when part one does well,” says Sreeni over the phone from his office in Sadashivanagar.

“As a filmmaker, I am in no hurry to bring out the second part. I am taking my time to see what can be further added to make it more entertaining and thrilling, without diluting the content or the main storyline. It’s a package and we need to keep all the entertainment factors in mind.”



One story at a time Sreeni says he is in no hurry to make films in a haste, stills from *Birbal Case 1* and the poster of the sequel. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Birbal, Sreeni says, is the common thread that runs through the trilogy. “Birbal solves a case in each film. Birbal is a series character like Sherlock Holmes solving standalone mysteries.”

The name, Birbal, Sreeni says, is inspired by emperor Akbar’s famous courtier. “The man was witty, intelligent and these are the characteristics of protagonist here too.”

Sreeni will direct *Birbal Case 2*. “We are in the process of finalising the cast and are looking to start the shooting in August in and around Bengaluru as the film is mostly set in the city. Sreeni describes *Birbal Case 2* as a thriller with ample courtroom drama.

The *Old Monk* and *Srinivasa Kalyana* director is in talks to helm a film for Shivarajkumar’s Geetha Pictures.

“All I can say now is that it is a children’s film, and currently I am writing the screenplay. The project will take off post *Birbal Case 2*.”

After the pandemic the audience no longer want to just watch a film, believes Sreeni.

“They want to *experience* a film. It can be a technical or a sound experience regardless of the genre. They may enjoy a film more if it is in 3D or 4D format. Streaming platforms provide ample content and varied styles of cinema in all languages. We filmmakers need to come up with original content, something different from what audience have seen online.”

There seems to be a lull in the Kannada industry post *Kantara*. “I would say the lull is in every industry, except for Malayalam. The first half of 2024 hasn't seen many successful films outside of Malayalam. Star-led films are not happening as often as they did in the past in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu cinema.”

Newcomers, Sreeni says, are not crowd-pullers yet. “We should promote them so that they also get traction. The lull is just a phase, which we will overcome as the second half of 2024 looks good for Indian cinema, with both star vehicles and content-driven films lined up for release.”

Sreeni misses being an RJ. His show on 93.5 RED FM, *Blade Raja*, made him a household name. He credits it for teaching him to be spontaneous. “Being an RJ taught me to have presence of mind and forge a bond with my listeners. I learnt about the science of sound, which plays an important role in cinema. It is not about having sounds or music throughout the film, but also about having silence, which can be a powerful tool.”

“This is what I learnt from the world of radio. The transition from the audio to visual medium has been an interesting process for me.”

EATING OUT

Say Klaa

Seaside vibes Klaa brings a bit of Goa to the city. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj

Goa has long been the go-to place for a holiday when you are young and the world is new and your wallet is on a permanent diet. And when it comes to memories of food, you will always remember the first time you tried their famous *sorpotel, xacuti, recheado masala* and of course, the *feni*.

Well, Bengaluru now has an address where you can enjoy the best of Goan cuisine, minus the booze, thanks to chef Rhea Aaron. With her brother Varun and partner Bikash Parik, Rhea opened Klaa where one can relish the hearty simplicity of authentic Goan food.

Klaa is done up in a simple, minimalistic style redolent of Goan homes. A shelf of retro model radios welcomes you at the entrance, while one wall of blue-and-white pictorial tile beckons you to take a seat, kick off your shoes and relax.

It is a sultry afternoon and we cool down with their mocktails before deciding on a bite to eat. Goa in Glass is a kokum-based drink with a Limca base, while Goa Mary is their guava take on a Bloody Mary. Both are refreshing and to be honest, perhaps the only time I have enjoyed Limca. Apart from these, one can also try the Avara, their non-alcoholic ginger beer, kombuchas or check out the specials board for the mocktail of the day.

The lunch menu is limited with a range of *thalis* – fish, prawn, chicken and veg – and a handful of starters and staples, more than enough to make for a satisfying meal. Each *thali* comes with six or seven dishes served with steamed rice and is only available in the afternoon.

Klaa

Hits: Garlic poee, pork chorizo chilli fry

Misses: None

Price for two: ₹1500

We begin with the garlic *poee* or Goan bread accompanied by the pork chorizo chilli fry. Spicy and smoky, the tang of vinegar added punch to the dish that was bursting with flavour. *Poee is* traditionally made from a mix of local wheat and naturally fermented with toddy, but at Klaa, “we use an adapted version as Bangalore weather is not conducive for the making of toddy,” says Rhea. “We use equal portions of whole wheat and refined flour with fresh and dry yeast for the fermentation process.”

She adds that rolling the *poee* on wheat bran gives it a lovely crust on the outside. Whatever its making process was, it certainly complemented the pork.

Alongside the pork, we tried Mary’s beef fry – a family recipe shared by Rhea’s mother. Soft and succulent slices of meat and onions flavoured with pepper go well with our drinks.

A closer look at the menu has dishes listed under Aaron’s and Rhea’s clearly denoting which are traditional Goan recipes and which have been crafted by Rhea over the years.

Coconut rice with Goan prawn curry was our choice for the main meal. Golden brown onions top the simple yet flavourful coconut rice and the prawn curry was an excellent accompaniment. The addition of kokum in the curry brought out that coastal element that had us indulging in second servings.

While one might feel the lunch menu is limited, Rhea says, “Lunch is not always a leisurely affair and the flavour profiles on the *thali* reflect all the traditional tastes of Goa.

Sadly, there is not much of a choice for vegetarians at Klaa except for the tried and tested offerings of mushroom, potatoes and *paneer*.

We wanted to skip dessert but the *serradura* was suggested, a typical Goan set milk custard with a hint of vanilla essence and layered with biscuits. The fact it was good old Marie biscuit and not some fancy cookie made it all the more a throwback to simpler times. “This is a Portuguese dessert adapted by the Goans,” says Rhea.

The dinner menu served from is slightly more extensive when it comes to small plates and one can enjoy the afternoon starters, staples and mains as well with the exception of the thalis.

A journey into Cambodian cuisine

Anagha Maareesha

South Asian food may be one of the most popular cuisines internationally. Within its complexities and diversity, the lesser-known cuisine of Cambodia sometimes gets lost.

One of the only restaurants in India that showcases the cuisine of the nation is Khmer Kitchen in Bengaluru. Their aim has always been to highlight the connection that exists between our two countries, not just in history and architecture but also in cuisine. The restaurant brought down noted Cambodian chefs, Kimsan Pol, Chhon B and Srey Bora, for a special Khmer Konnection festival. I caught up with chef Kimsan Pol to learn more about the cuisine of Cambodia.

Khmer cuisine borrows a lot from its neighbours, but has its own distinct identity. It also takes influences from French cuisine, because of European colonisation in the 19th century. When Naveen Reddy, the owner of Khmer Kitchen, visited the country, he was struck by the similarities between the cultures and felt that Indians should get an opportunity to experience the cuisine. After opening the restaurant in late 2020, they had the opportunity only now to bring down chefs from the country for the event.

Bridging borders Crab meat and scallop natang served on a rice crisp. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kimsan Pol is the president of the Cambodia Chefs Association and also heads two restaurants - Embassy and Sombok. She specialises in Khmer gastronomy and aims to bring it to the world stage. “Embassy restaurant is a fully woman-run enterprise. All the staff, except the one security guard, is female,” she shares with a laugh. “Our concept is to present Cambodian home cooking to our diners. It is like we invite the diners to our home. In Khmer gastronomy, we use local ingredients, but at the restaurant, we use international presentation styles,” she adds.

The cuisine is very seafood-forward, with rice as the staple. She tells us how traditional Cambodian food is fresh and made every day from the produce in your backyard. Fermented seafood sauces and pastes make the basis of the curries. Kroeung is a paste made of lemongrass, garlic, turmeric and other spices, that lends a fresh flavour to the dishes.

The six-course dinner showcased some authentic recipes and ingredients from the region, albeit in a modern avatar. *Natang* is a Cambodian appetiser that is served with rice crisps. Kimsan made a crab meat and scallop *natang* which boasted flavours of coconut, and was propped on top of a rice crisp. It was a fun play on textures.

Another common ingredient used in Khmer cooking is the heart of palm, harvested from the stem of the coconut tree. Kimsan served a soup of slow-cooked duck breast that had this young palm, round eggplant and the sour notes of tamarind. The palm also made an appearance in the main course. Grilled chicken wing was stuffed with the young palm, holy basil, and served with a passion fruit and ginger sauce.

Saraman curry is one of the most important dishes in royal Khmer cuisine. The coconut-based curry is made with an array of spices and topped with peanuts. At Khmer Kitchen, we dined on a slow-cooked lamb *saraman* curry. The novelty of the cuisine, yet the familiarity of some of the ingredients made it an interesting dinner.

“It is my pleasure to come here,” Kimsan said. “It is my first time in India and I’m so happy to bring Cambodian food to India in this cross-cultural exchange. I’m very proud of our cuisine.”

CITYBEATS

Get grooving

JULY 5 AND 6

Join the Adil Manuel Collective (AMC) for an evening of Brazilian/ Latin jazz-fusion. Adil, a veteran with over 20 years of experience in music leads the collective, which is known for their specialised sets, featuring original compositions. They will present their Brazilian/Latin Jazz set at the show.

At Windmills, Whitefield. Entry (Seating is ₹ 3,000, standing ₹ 1,500 inclusive of taxes).

Beat retreat

JULY 6

Tune in to a live performance – OBSCURA – an evening of experimental music with a non-conforming outlook. The evening will feature Watashi, a Bengaluru-based sound artist, Obscuit from Kochi, Sandeep aka DJ DWELL, and Shivhari, who brings Indian classical music into the electronic realm.

At Indiranagar SOCIAL, 7pm onwards. Tickets on Insider.in

Roll with it

ONGOING

This menu offers you a limited edition of maki rolls, which celebrates the art of sushi. They come in the flavours of white truffle, tuna, golden maki and are made from ingredients such as tuna tartare, prawn tempura, white truffle cream, charcoal crisps, tobiko, and gold dust.

Available till July 5 at KOKO Bengaluru. Dial 9844194747 for reservations

Wife was allotted MUDA sites in lieu of acquired land, says Siddaramaiah

He says allotment of sites to his wife during the rule of the erstwhile BJP government in the State was as per the 50:50 scheme introduced by the regime

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/BENGALURU

Amid the controversy over the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) under the 50:50 scheme for land losers, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said his wife had been allotted sites in lieu of her land, which the Authority acquired for developing a residential layout on the outskirts of the city.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the allotment of sites to her wife during the rule of the erstwhile BJP Government in the State was as per the 50:50 scheme introduced by the regime.

The 50:50 scheme of MUDA envisages allotting 50% of developed land to the land loser in lieu of the total undeveloped land acquired for the purpose of developing a residential layout.

He said his brother-in-law Mallikarjuna had purchased 3 acres and 16 guntas of land near Kesare adjacent to the Outer Ring Road in Mysuru and had later transferred it to his sister, who is Mr. Siddaramaiah's wife, through a gift deed as her share.

Mr. Siddaramaiah pointed out that the MUDA had formed a residential layout on the land belonging to his wife and

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

distributed the sites to allottees.

Contending that his wife was legally entitled to compensation for the land on which MUDA had developed a residential layout and allotted the sites, Mr. Siddaramaiah said they agreed to MUDA's offer to allot alternative residential sites under the 50:50 scheme in lieu of his wife's acquired land.

"When MUDA made a layout and distributed sites on our land, we were without land. Should we lose our property," he asked.

As no sites were available in the layout developed on his wife's land, MUDA allotted them alternative residential sites of the dimension they were entitled to under the 50:50 scheme rules, Mr. Siddaramaiah said. He also sought to make it clear that his wife had not sought allotment of alternative sites when he was the Chief Minister but when BJP was in power in the State.

Mr. Siddaramaiah's clarification comes amid a row over alleged irregularities in the distribution of sites under the 50:50 scheme, causing a huge loss to MUDA.

High-level probe

Minister for Urban Development Byrathi Suresh, who arrived in Mysuru on Monday, ordered a high-level probe by a four-member committee headed by headed by Commissioner, Urban Development Authorities, Venkatachalapathi R., an IAS officer.

While the Inquiry Committee is expected to probe the irregularities in the allotment of sites under the 50:50 scheme during the last two years, Mr. Suresh assured to cancel all the "illegal" allotments made under the scheme.

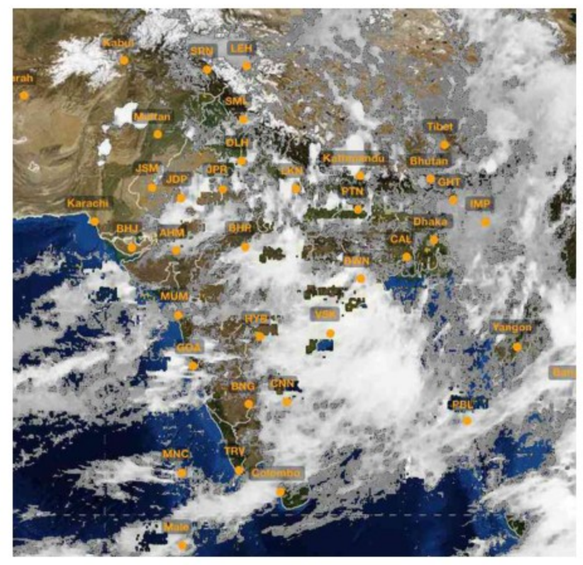
Apart from ordering a probe, the Government has transferred senior officials of MUDA including Commissioner G.T. Dinesh Kumar.

Ashok takes exception

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok has taken exception to the government appointing two bureaucrats to look into the irregularities in MUDA instead of seeking a probe by the CBI or retired judge. Alleging that irregularities to the tune of ₹4,000 crore had taken place in distribution of sites by MUDA, he wanted to know if such large scale irregularities could occur without the involvement of the CM, who hails from Mysuru.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Punjab, Sikkim, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, and Kerala. Squally weather with wind speed 35 kmph to 45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph likely to prevail over southern parts of northeast Arabian sea and adjoining northwest Arabian sea.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	60.0	30.4	25.6	Kozhikode	7.0	32.5	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	29.8	24.7	Kurnool	—	36.4	26.1
Aizawl	94.0	28.8	22.8	Lucknow	0.4	32.3	27.5
Allahabad	4.0	33.2	27.6	Madurai	—	38.8	26.1
Bengaluru	2.0	28.4	21.3	Mangaluru	44.0	28.9	23.9
Bhopal	22.0	29.1	23.8	Mumbai	29.0	31.3	24.2
Bhubaneswar	12.0	31.5	26.4	Mysuru	—	27.5	—
Chandigarh	4.0	36.0	28.8	New Delhi	3.2	36.5	27.6
Chennai	—	37.1	28.8	Patna	0.6	38.6	27.7
Coimbatore	—	34.2	23.2	Port Blair	—	31.6	25.8
Dehradun	4.0	29.9	26.8	Puducherry	—	32.2	27.0
Gangtok	23.0	20.2	18.9	Pune	1.0	30.5	25.0
Goa	24.0	31.5	25.9	Raipur	2.4	31.6	24.7
Guwahati	8.0	31.5	24.8	Ranchi	0.8	27.6	23.8
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	35.0	23.1	17.1
Hyderabad	—	33.6	24.6	Shimla	2.0	24.5	18.5
Imphal	64.0	29.5	20.7	Srinagar	—	34.8	22.8
Jaipur	—	35.5	27.6	Thiruvananthapuram	5.0	32.8	23.9
Kochi	14.0	26.8	24.4	Tiruchi	—	34.7	26.6
Kohima	62.0	25.0	15.2	Vijayawada	—	36.2	26.0
Kolkata	5.0	29.4	27.1	Visakhapatnam	1.0	31.2	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	..—	93	38	34	
Bengaluru	.15	..—	83	44	57	
Chennai	5	7	96	93	90	
Delhi	2	54	42	71	235	
Hyderabad	4	30	23	421	—	
Kolkata	6	31	34	33	61	
Lucknow	9	19	92	36	47	
Mumbai	24	185	45	45	54	
Pune	3	10	12	23	56	
Visakhapatnam	10	53	26	55	111	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Motihari, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 288 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 15.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Meeting of TG, A.P. CMs likely to resolve pending bifurcation issues

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

There seems to be light at the end of the tunnel for resolution of bifurcation issues between the two Telugu States – Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has asked the officials to submit a comprehensive report on the pending issues between the two States following his A.P. counterpart N. Chandrababu Naidu's letter evincing keenness in resolving the pending issues at least now.

Mr. Naidu is likely to meet Mr. Revanth Reddy here on July 6 to discuss about the pending issues and resolve them amicably.

This brings to the fore the issues between the two States that remained unresolved for over a decade.

Division of assets and liabilities of the Schedule IX and X institutions has been the bone of contention between the two States. There are 91 institutions under Schedule IX and 142 under Schedule X listed in the A.P. Reorganisation Act in addition to 12 other institutions that were not mentioned in the Act.

The total fixed asset value of these institutions has been estimated at ₹1.42 lakh crore by the A.P. government, but the Telangana government terms it notional claiming the actual value would be much lower. The high power committee headed by retired bureaucrat Sheila Bhide made recommendations on division of assets and liabilities pertaining to 89 of the 91 institutions but the two States are at loggerheads on these recommendations.

BRS asks Revanth Reddy to press for return of seven mandals

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi has asked Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy to use his good offices with his former party colleague and Andhra Pradesh counterpart N. Chandrababu Naidu and get back seven mandals and the 460-MW Lower Sileru hydel project forcibly transferred to A.P. in 2014 through an ordinance.

Welcoming Mr. Naidu's gesture of writing to his Telangana counterpart for a meeting on July 6, BRS leaders T. Harish Rao and S. Madhusuda na Chary said here on Tuesday that as the Chief Minister-elect K. Chandrasekhar Rao had strongly protested the promulgation of an ordinance by the Centre then, stating that it was a move undermining the people of Telangana and called for a State bandh on May 30.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NAIDILA Sadashiv Goudar, changed my name from Naidila Sadashiv Goudar to Naidila Sadashiv vide affidavit dated 01-July-2024 sworn before Notary Chandrakala-560022

BUSINESS OFFERS

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE MOTOR ACCIDENTS CLAIMS TRIBUNAL
(Before the Hon'ble I St ADDL.DISTRICT JUDGE)
ANANTHAPURAMU
IA No.625/2023 in OP No.36/2021
Between:
Meenuga Lakshmi & 3 Others ...Petitioners
Vs
P.Ravi & 2 Others ...Respondents
Notice to Respondent No.: 2
To: R2.- K.Bhaskar Reddy
S/o K.Chinnapa Reddy # 80,
2nd Main Road KPN Extension, Bangalore, Karnataka-560002 (Owner of Lorry)
Whereas the above said petitioner filed the above case seeking compensation against you and others. The above case is posted **On 19-07-2024 at 10.30 AM** for your appearance of you have filed to appear before the said court personally or through an advocate on that date. The matter will be decided Exparty.
(By order of the Hon'ble Court)
P.RAJASEKHAR, Advocate
Ananthapuram (A.P)
Cell:9440732441

IN THE COURT OF THE MOTOR ACCIDENTS CLAIMS TRIBUNAL
(Before the Hon'ble I St ADDL.DISTRICT JUDGE)
ANANTHAPURAMU
IA No.624/2023 in OP No.36/2021
Between:
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(By order of the Hon'ble Court)
P.RAJASEKHAR, Advocate
Ananthapuram (A.P)
Cell:9440732441

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VARSEEGA D/o TJ-6841Y, Rank Sub Name M Jayasankaran, R/a Beerpalli (Vill & PO), Shoolagiri (Tehsil), Krishnagiri (Dist) Tamil Nadu-635115 have changed my name to Varseega J vide affidavit dt: 22.06.2024 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'luru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-63)
O.S. NO. 424/2021
Hg. 09/08/2024
Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No. 1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore- 560 025, and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative. Mr. Pramodh. G. ...Plaintiff
And
Ms. Swetha C and another ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant
1. Ms. Swetha C,
D/o. Mr Channappa, Aged about 32 Years,
2. Mr C Harisha,
S/o. Mr Channappa,
Aged about 42 Years,
Both defendants 1 & 2 are residing at No. 5/2, G Cross, 1st Main, New Guddadahalli, Near Blueline School, Bangalore Electric Factory, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru- 560026. ...Defendants
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 2,24,447/- along with interest at the rate of 18% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H -63), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 09/08/2024 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 27th day of June, 2023 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner
'A', 3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru-01

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH-40)
O.S. NO. 5566/2022
Between
ICICI Bank Ltd,
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007. And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru- 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M Rohit Ali, S/o Ishrath Ali M, Aged about 25 years, ...PLAINTIFF
And
Mr. Shabir Khan
S/o Ghouse Khan, Aged about 35 years, R/a #5/17, 5th Main Road, Bismillah Nagar, Near Shalimar Marriage Hall, B.G Road, Bengaluru- 560 029. ...DEFENDANT
Summons/Notice through Paper Publication
Mr. Shabir Khan
S/o Ghouse Khan,
Aged about 35 years,
R/a #5/17, 5th Main Road, Bismillah Nagar, Near Shalimar Marriage Hall, B.G Road, Bengaluru- 560 029. ...DEFENDANT
WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 4,84,447/- together with interest at the rate 24% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble City Civil & Session Judge Court, (CCH/40), At Bengaluru, in person or by a advocate/pleader on 13/08/2024 at 11.00 A.M. to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determine as "EX-PARTE".
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 21st day of June, 2024.
By the order of the Court
Senior Sherisleder
City Civil Court
Bengalore
Advocate For Plaintiff
Mr. K.N. Arvinda Navada
Advocate
No.177/1, (88), 1 Floor,
Besides 12th Cross,
Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bengaluru- 560 002.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-3)
Hg. 21/08/2024
ORIGINAL
SUIT NO. 6672 OF 2022
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007 And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru- 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M. Rohit Ali, S/o Ishrath Ali M., Aged about 25 years, ...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Mrs. Hephzibah Angeline M.
D/o Manohar Leslie,
Aged about 33 years,
R/a Sf-01, Sripathi Nilaya, Ganesha Temple, Opp. to Bachappa Building, Doddakalasandra, Bengaluru- 560 062. ...DEFENDANT
Summons/ Notice through Paper Publication
To.
Mrs. Hephzibah Angeline M.
D/o. Manohar Leslie,
Aged about 33 years,
R/a Sf-01, Sripathi Nilaya, Ganesha Temple, Opp. to Bachappa Building, Doddakalasandra, Bengaluru- 560 062. ...DEFENDANT
WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount ₹3,90,187/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble City Civil & Session Judge Court, (CCH-3), At Bengaluru, in person or by a Advocate/Pleader on 21/08/2024 at 11.00 A.M. to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as "EX-PARTE".
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 27th day of June, 2024.
By order of the Court,
Senior .....
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
Mr. K.N. Arvinda Navada
Advocate
No 177/1, (88), 1st Floor,
Besi..... 12th Cross,
Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bengaluru- 560 002.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMIL NADU WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt.of Tamil Nadu Sponsored Undertaking)
82, ANNA SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-Tenders are invited by the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation, Chennai - 32. Under **TWO BID SYSTEM** for supply of 20,000 nos. of Wooden Crates for 12 Warehouses from the professionally competent, financially sound original equipment manufacturers / distributors / dealers for stacking & storage of rice, wheat and other food grains inside the godowns.
The entire details of Tenders and the list of Warehouses are available in Government Website **https://tntenders.gov.in**

Tender Documents available place, cost and due date for obtaining Tender	Available in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** (Free of cost) **04.07.2024 to 05.08.2024**
Due date for submission of Tender through online	**05.08.2024 by 03.00 P.M.**

DIPR/ 2156 /TENDER/2024
Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation, Chennai - 600 032.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, खूँटी।
ई–अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई–अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा संख्याः– **02/RI/2024-25/RWD/KHUNTI** दिनांक– **02.07.2024**
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, खूँटी द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से पैकेज के रूप में निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
1. कार्य का नामः–

क्र० सं०	आई०डी० सं०/पैकेज सं०	प्रखण्ड	पथ का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रूपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल नं०
1	RWD-KHU-STPKG-12/2023-24	सोनाहातु	1. मगनडीह से इरकु तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं०–1.200 कि०मी०)।	11,81,61,600.00 (ग्यारह करोड़ इक्यासी लाख एकसठ हजार छः सौ रू० मात्र।)	23,65,000.00 (तेईस लाख पैंसठ हजार रू० मात्र।)	15 माह।	द्वितीय।
		सोनाहातु	2. नीमडीह से नकीडीह तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं०–1.000 कि०मी०)।				
		सोनाहातु	3. गुरूतडीह से गलउ तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं०–1.500 कि०मी०)।				
		सोनाहातु	4. L046-से हितजारा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं०–6.1720 कि०मी०)।				
		सोनाहातु	5. L045- सोनाहातु बाजारटाँड़ से बारूहातु तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं०–2.200 कि०मी०)।				
		सोनाहातु	6. सोनाहातु जामुदाग रोड से सरयाद भाया रंगाडीह तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं०–2.100 कि०मी०)।				
		सोनाहातु	7. सोनाहातु बाजारटाँड़ से कुड़वाहातु भाया गोमियांडीह बाबलाडीह तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं०–4.200 कि०मी०)।				

2 वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथिः– 05.07.2024।
3 ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समयः– 18.07.2024 अपराहन 5.00 बजे।
4 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समयः– 20.07.2024 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे
5 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पताः– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, खूँटी, पिन–835210।
6 ई– निविदा प्रकोष्ट का दूरभाष संः– 9431170803
7 अग्रधन की राशि स्वीकृत परिमाण विपत्र के अनुरूप भी मान्य होगा।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,
कार्य प्रमण्डल, खूँटी।
PR 328414 (Rural Work Department) 24-25 (D)

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ
ಮೈಸೂರು – 570024. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eewmccmys@gmail.com / eeemccmys@gmail.com
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.06.2024
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಜಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1.	ಹೆಚ್1/ಪವಿ/101/2022–23	02 Works Tender	200.00	02.07.2024 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ರ ನಂತರ	16.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ	17.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರ ನಂತರ
		13 Goods Tender	1392.99	02.07.2024 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ರ ನಂತರ	16.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ	17.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರ ನಂತರ
		01 Quotation		02.07.2024 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ರ ನಂತರ	09.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ	10.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರ ನಂತರ

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾ.ಅ ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. **ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ:** ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ / ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/202/24-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, **SRI. H. R. SURESH s/o Late. H. S. Ramaswamy** is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to develop the Schedule Property in to a Residential Layout on a Joint development basis with the above said Owner. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Sy. No. 74 (Old Sy. No. 3)**, measuring to an extent of **2 Acres 38 Guntas and 02 Guntas of kharab land** (duly converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official endorsement dated 19.08.2015 Order No. ALN (DK) SR/53/ 2011-12, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District, situated at Mutturu Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on:

East By : Land bearing Sy. No. 3;
West By : Land bearing Sy. No. 73 & 76;
North By : Land bearing Sy. No. 77;
South By : Portion of the land bearing Sy. No. 3.

Dated this 03rd day of July 2024 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main
HSR Layout, Sector 2, Bangalore – 560 102
Phone: 080-65555914
Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST DOCUMENTS

My client (1) **MIDDE VENKATACHAR GOPALAN, (also known as MV Gopalan)** aged about 62 years, S/o Late Midde Venkatachar,and (2) **SRIVIDYA GOPALAN** W/o Midde Venkatachar Gopalan residing at: No. D004, Adarsh Residency, 47th Cross, 8th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 082. My client have irretrievably lost the following original documents of title of House Property No.437, Kempapura Agrahara Marenahalli, Bangalore North Taluk. The finders may return the same to us.

a) The Possession Certificate dated 17.11.1974 issued by Bapujinagar Industrial Workers Co-operative Housing Society Limited, Bapujinagar, Mysore Road, Bangalore – 26, to Sri M.Subramanya, S/o Sri M.Chandrashekhariah,
b) The Re-Conveyance Deed dated 13.11.1981 registered as Document No.3375 of the year 1981-82, Book-I, Vol. 757, at pages 202-204, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Srirampuram, Bangalore on 29.12.1981.
c) The Possession Certificate dated 13.11.1981, issued Bapujinagar Industrial Workers Co-operative Housing Society Limited, Bapujinagar, Mysore Road, Bangalore – 26, to Sri M.Subramanya, S/o Sri M.Chandrashekhariah, of the Schedule Property
d) The Absolute Sale Deed dated 13.11.1981 registered as Document No.3376 of the year 1981-82, Book-I, Vol.657, pages 123-124, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Srirampuram, Bangalore.
e) The Building Plan No.BDA/RO/136/1982-81, approved by BDA for construction of Ground Floor

M.A. SEBASTIAN, Advocate
SEBASTIAN & Co.
Flat No. 4, Shabari Apartment, 513, CMH Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore -560038 Ph: 080- 25289595
Dated: 02-07-2024

Mixed signals

India needs to strengthen momentum in the key industrial sectors

Output data for May from the eight core infrastructure sectors show broad industrial activity slowed under the onslaught of a heatwave that left homes, offices and factories countrywide using more power to run their fans and cooling systems. Only coal, to fuel the power plants, and electricity generation posted double-digit output growth, expanding by 10.2% and 12.8%, respectively, as per provisional data on the Index of Eight Core Industries released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on June 28. And production in crude oil, fertilizers and cement shrank from their year-earlier levels, while output expansions decelerated in the remaining three sectors of natural gas, refinery products and steel. The heatwave's impact on economic activity in May was particularly prominent in India's northern parts, as it forced afternoon breaks at construction sites and daily peak power demand at the Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre consistently hovered around or exceeded 75 gigawatts. Demand for cement and steel weakened as construction activity was understandably curbed by the temperatures, with both the key building materials also posting sequential declines in output. The year-on-year contraction in fertilizers for a fifth straight month in May is a cause for concern as it signals persisting weakness in the rural hinterland's mainstay agriculture sector. A smart uptick in May's index number for the farm input, from the revised reading for April, however, offers a glimmer of hope.

Official data for the core sector as well as the Index of Industrial Production, to which it contributes more than 40% weight, however, suffer from the infirmity of coming with a lag of more than a month. Meanwhile, the private sector, survey-based HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for June suggests that activity at factories rebounded last month from May's heatwave-hit three-month low. June's PMI reading of 58.3 was 0.8 percentage points higher than May's 57.5, and, according to HSBC India, "comfortably above its long-run average". The survey also indicates that manufacturers stepped up output and buying to meet buoyant demand, and stepped up hiring to the fastest pace "seen in more than 19 years of data collection". However, both the job creation and demand were also accompanied by an intensification of increases in staff expenses and material and transportation costs that led to manufacturing companies raising their selling charges by the greatest extent in more than two years. The inflationary trend, coupled with survey respondents' overall confidence in future output sliding to a three-month low, signals the economy still faces speed bumps. Policymakers have a chance to use the upcoming Union Budget to make policy tweaks to help strengthen momentum in the key industrial sectors.

Open court

For the first time in two decades, the Big Four are not among favourites

Wimbledon 2024 has begun with world tennis in the middle of a generational transition. There is no Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, with the former having retired and the latter on a long valedictory lap which does not have SW19 as a pit stop. The 37-year-olds in Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray are closer to the end of their careers, and have arrived in London with broken bodies. Djokovic is recovering from a knee surgery while Murray went under a surgeon's scalpel to mend his back barely days ago. At what is set to be his Wimbledon swansong, Murray will only compete in doubles with his brother Jamie. Thus, the stranglehold the 'Big Four' had established by winning 19 of the 20 editions from 2003 to 2023 is likely to be loosened. Among women, this will be the first time since 1996 that neither of the famed Williams sisters will be in action. Starting from 2000, Venus and Serena won 12 singles titles and finished runner-up on eight occasions. Venus has not played since March 2024 and Serena since September 2022. In the year or two preceding their last matches, they were far from tournament-winning form. Yet, such has been their overarching excellence that they are the benchmark indices against which every grass-court career is measured.

As the stage appears set to identify the next era's tennis greats, Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz has staked claim most authoritatively. As a 20-year-old, he won Wimbledon in 2023 for his second Major (US Open 2022, the first), beating Djokovic over five pulsating sets, and last month he graduated further by claiming the French Open. In close proximity is Jannik Sinner, the lanky Italian who won the Australian Open in January and has since meticulously risen to the top of the singles rankings. A quarterfinalist and a semifinalist in his last two visits to Wimbledon, the 22-year-old recently proved that he was a serious challenger on the slick lawns by winning in Halle (Germany), his first title on grass. Sinner's credentials will however be put to test as early as the second round against 2021 finalist and the quintessential grass-courter Matteo Berrettini. While the passing of the baton appears seamless among men, the battle of succession among women has multiple contenders. Five-time Slam winner Iga Swiatek is the undisputed No.1 but her grass-court nous is yet to fully develop. Second seed Coco Gauff's best at Wimbledon is fourth round, which she first reached in 2019 as a 15-year-old qualifier. And with the withdrawal of Aryna Sabalenka – third seed and a two-time semifinalist – the field is open.

Great expectations, liberalism in dark times

Shelley Walia

taught cultural theory at the Panjab University

The object of politics, as of philosophy, is to perceive unity in diversity, where contradictions meet and merge in a multi-racial society. To rise to that highest knowledge of widespread concord is to reach to the intellectual equivalent of an intimate structure of a subjective and idealist state that works on the ideology of coexistence and welfare of all. But the compelling global history of the fate of democracy leaves a glaring blemish on the very idea of liberalism which faces threats from across the spectrum.

The battering of liberalism, a political order that keeps power in check and safeguards our fundamental rights, is nothing new. The pressing issue before the state in times of rampant sectarianism has always been: Who has the 'rights to have rights' – a question that defines civil discrimination, racist politics and xenophobic bigotry. The growth of right-wing nationalism, the global problem of refugees and migrants throws light on the fissures that vividly exist in societies and in ideologies.

Electoral outcomes

In the context of liberalism facing an existential crisis, the recent swing towards the right in the European Parliament, points towards public opinion veering in favour of climate scepticism, anti-migration sentiment and the rising tide of divisiveness as a result of fervent nationalism. A similar victory of the right-wing conservative forces seemed to be the logical outcome in the recent general election in India. But the awakened and alert electorate took on the challenge and sent an unambiguous message to the world that the voter in India stands tall in stridently conveying her indignation at the rise of creeping insidious authoritarianism and sullied politics.

The outcome has redeemed the very forte of democracy by rightfully checking the overwhelming avalanche of smothering oppression combined with unbridled communalism that had brought the Muslim community under a cloud of fear and insecurity. Though one wavers between moods of hope and despair, one could optimistically look towards a robust Opposition with the government in power ready to listen and debate. One only hopes that existing democratic institutions will continue to facilitate the procedures of the defence of our fundamental rights and the promotion of a diverse civil society.

A new way of connecting to each other by understanding the distinctions between private religious faith and public, politicised way of life, will not diminish any one.

> There is some hope in the idea that democratic forces always remain alive, striking at the right moment at the roots of any antagonistic political aberration

It is in such a political milieu that a conversation has to begin between the overzealous conservatives and the beleaguered left. Readiness to legislate and execute with rationality and justice, and having the responsiveness to intervene in the dilemma of the marginalised, hungry, unemployed masses is all that the polity of a country longs for. Human rights that are bestowed by the nation-state on some, while excluding others through forced assimilation, ethnic cleansing or even genocide, principally explains the origins of many of today's crises. The Indian voter has indeed woken up and given a resounding blow to the indomitable regime that set out to create a toxic imbalance between various political parties in an environment despondently sunk in hatred and ethnic violence. It is indeed heart warming to see the emergence of a collective effort to forge an opposition that, hopefully, will keep the now downsized government on its toes.

Verdict and the advent of hope

This is a splendid verdict when the primacy of democracy is gradually fading away as nations weave their way in the labyrinths of lies, deception and deceit couched in the most debased language one can think of, particularly, when used as a histrionic craft of rhetorical hypnosis that leaves many in a state of discombobulation. Crapulously drunk on power, bragging about its performance and its omnipresence, the ruling right-wing dispensations across the world throw rationality to the wind, ready to issue opprobrium on all who speak truth to power, all who dare to divulge the non-constitutionality of the subtext of a political statement. As is expected within civil societies, political speeches must show some form of dignity and eloquent reasoning, not expediently perpetuate an environment of authority and oppression through the intimidating use of media and the state apparatus. I only hope that the ruling dispensation begins now to discreetly embrace a tempered liberalism, leaving behind its illiberal tactics. And, I hope that the Opposition alliance comes up to the expectations of millions and charts a road map that celebrates humility, pluralism and modesty.

Take for example the clash between the natural order and the civil. As the philosopher Baruch Spinoza wrote in the *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*, the maturest of his writings on liberal and democratic hopes, the natural order allows you to "consult only your own advantage, and determines who is good or bad according to your own fancy". On the other hand, in a civil setup, "each one holds himself responsible to the state" and is therefore held guilty of acts that spread "hatred, anger, treachery, or, in general, anything that appetite suggests". The lawlessness of nature is clearly pitched against the predetermined order of the state, where only law and morality prevail merely because we live in a state governed by accepted beliefs and rationality, a common recognised system designed collectively.

Spinoza, therefore, has in mind the workings of the natural order where all are free to act unlike societies that evolve into organised arrangements where it is imperative to go by the book and abide by a moral order. Living in a social system, therefore, demands that no human reverts to the disorder of nature, thereby permitting the rights of the state to capriciously metamorphose into the 'might" of the state. Such has been the tragedy of history that allowed the rise of anti-liberal tendencies. Reflection on such an eventuality becomes necessary at a juncture when democratic institutions across the globe stand bruised by a leadership that cares little for political wisdom necessary for shaping its attitude towards the world.

Like many of us, India too tantalisingly swings between hope and scepticism in the face of the unfathomable results of its general election. It is a moment or a mood that will dictate the trajectory of its democracy in the coming years as well as trigger and sustain philosophical reflections on the lack of political astuteness and dignified statesmanship that seems to be the most conceivable malaise infesting our world today. Cohabitation and reaching out to opposing political players is an abiding expectation.

I write with a sense of anguish at the return of McCarthyism, giving many a taste of the ordeal of the depression of a disenchanted and overbearing world. But there is some hope in the idea that democratic forces always remain alive, though often latent, and, at the right moment, strike at the roots of any antagonistic political aberration that may hinder the regeneration of institutions and full-bodied political thinking for the empowerment of each individual and his rights, underpinned by a sustainable consensus. The very complexion of Indian politics must change to show to the emerging hard right wing that democratic forces are up and kicking when human dignity is in question. Our impetus into the future is not only about personal liberty or democratic self-rule based on our Constitution; it is also steeped in moral significance.

Digital jurisprudence in India, in an AI era

Amar Patnaik

a former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) from Odisha and now an advocate by profession. He was a former CAG bureaucrat

Even though Generative AI (GAI) stands as a transformative force, wielding power to revolutionise society in ground-breaking ways, existing legal frameworks and judicial precedents that have been designed for a pre-AI world may struggle to effectively govern this rapidly-evolving technology.

Safe harbour and liability fixation

One of the most persistent and contentious issues in Internet governance has been the fixing of liability on "intermediaries" for content hosted by them. The landmark Shreya Singhal judgment addressed this by upholding Section 79 of the IT Act which grants intermediaries 'safe harbour' protection against hosting content, contingent upon meeting the due diligence requirements outlined in Section 3(1)(b) of the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules. However, its application to Generative AI tools remains challenging.

There are contrasting views on the role of GAI tools. Some argue that they should be considered intermediaries since they are used almost like a search engine even though they do not host links to third-party websites. Others argue that they are mere "conduits" for user prompts, where altering the prompt leads to changes in output – essentially making the generated content akin to third-party speech, and, therefore, attracting lesser liability for the content generated.

In *Christian Louboutin Sas vs Nakul Bajaj and Ors* (2018), the Delhi High Court held that safe harbour protection applies solely to "passive" intermediaries, referring to entities functioning as mere conduits or passive transmitters of information. However, in the context of Large Language Models (LLMs), making a distinction between user-generated and platform-generated content is increasingly challenging. Additionally, liability in the case of AI chatbots arises once the information is reposted on other platforms by the user; mere response to a user prompt is not considered dissemination.

Generative AI outputs have already led to legal conflicts in various jurisdictions. In June 2023, a radio host in the United States filed a lawsuit against Open AI, alleging that Chat GPT had defamed him. The ambiguity in classifying GAI tools, whether as intermediaries, conduits, or active creators, will complicate the ability of courts to assign liability, particularly in user reposts.

> This rapidly-evolving technology does pose a challenge to existing legal frameworks and judicial precedents that have been designed for a pre-AI world

The copyright conundrum

Section 16 of Indian Copyright Act 1957 specifically provides that "no person" shall be entitled to protection of copyright except by the provisions of the Act. As in India, reluctance persists regarding the provisions of copyright protection to works generated by AI globally.

The critical questions are: should existing copyright provisions be revised to accommodate AI? If AI-generated works gain protection, would co-authorship with a human be mandatory? Should recognition extend to the user, the programme itself, and by extension, the programmer, or both? The 161st Parliamentary Standing Committee Report found that the Copyright Act of 1957 is "not well equipped to facilitate authorship and ownership by Artificial Intelligence".

Under current Indian law, a copyright owner can take legal action against anyone who infringes on his/her work with remedies such as injunctions and damages. However, the question of who is responsible for copyright infringement by AI tools remains unclear. As previously argued, classifying GAI tools, whether as intermediaries, conduits, or active creators, will complicate the courts' ability to assign liability. ChatGPT's 'Terms of Use' attempt to shift liability to the user for any illegal output. But the enforceability of such terms in India is uncertain.

The landmark K.S. Puttaswamy judgment (2017) by the Supreme Court of India established a strong foundation for privacy jurisprudence in the country, leading to the enactment of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP). While traditional data aggregators or consent managers raise privacy concerns during the collection and distribution of personal information, Generative AI introduces a new layer of complexity.

The DPDP Act introduces the "right to erasure" as well as "right to be forgotten". However, once a GAI model is trained on a dataset, it cannot truly "unlearn" the information it has already absorbed. This raises a critical question. How can individuals exercise control over their personal information when it is woven into the very fabric of a powerful AI model?

Steps to pursue

First, learning by doing. Consider granting GAI platforms temporary immunity from liability following a sandbox approach. This approach allows responsible development while gathering data to identify legal issues that could inform future laws and regulations.

Second, data rights and responsibilities. The process of data acquisition for GAI training requires an overhaul. Developers must prioritise legal compliance by ensuring proper licensing and compensation for the intellectual property used in training models. Solutions could include revenue-sharing or licensing agreements with data owners.

Third, licensing challenges. Licensing data for GAI is complex as web-data lacks a centralised licensing body similar to copyright societies in the music industry. A potential solution is the creation of centralised platforms, akin to stock photo websites such as Getty Images, which simplify licensing, streamline access to necessary data for developers and ensure data integrity against historical bias and discrimination.

The jurisprudence around Generative AI (GAI) is hazy and yet to be evolved. It demands a comprehensive re-evaluation of existing digital jurisprudence. A holistic, government-wide approach and judicious interpretations by the constitutional courts are essential to maximise the benefits of this powerful technology, but safeguarding individual rights and protecting them against unwelcome harm all the while.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The return of debate

It was a pleasant revelation for those who believe in democracy to see such poise and forbearance in our legislators across both sides of the aisle in Parliament. A stronger Opposition seems to have found its lost voice. The government is perhaps discovering the value of debate, which it had mislaid in a hubris of its brute numbers. The Speakers in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha too, in a significant departure, showcased their real role, that of a moderator, to further the essence of parliamentary democracy. There was debate and a willingness to listen. The onus is on the government and the Opposition to perpetuate this democratic ethos.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

The heated debates on the floor of the Houses were riveting and have ignited the proper working of Parliament. Judging by the Opposition's attitude, things seem to be moving the right way after a decade. Debate and healthy discussions will benefit the people.

Kirti Wadhawan,
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Medha Patkar's conviction

It is sad that Medha Patkar, an icon for tribal rights, has been sentenced to five months simple imprisonment for making certain remarks against the The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, V.K. Saxena. It was only recently that the same L-G had granted sanction to prosecute renowned author Arundhati Roy, under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, for having called for an independent Kashmir. Since 2014, instances of civil and social rights activists who have been critical of the BJP government being targeted have multiplied. In fact, the Supreme Court of India pulled up former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa for misusing the defamation law. Taking a cue from this, the ruling party at the Centre should develop a thick skin. Politicians should vindicate their points of view in public and should not use courts to settle political scores and stifle criticism. In any democratic society, there should be space for dissent. Otherwise, we would be heading towards an authoritarian state.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

France: India's steady partner in green growth

On July 14, 2023, in Paris, President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi elevated the 'Partnership for the Planet' as one of the three pillars of the Indo-French Horizon 2047 Roadmap. This decision reflects the intensification of Indo-French cooperation over the past few years on issues such as climate change, biodiversity, health, and environment. It also shows a deep convergence of views between France and India: our two countries champion the idea that socioeconomic development and environment protection can go hand and hand, are committed to bridging North-South divides, and believe that we can together find sustainable solutions for the world and for our own green transitions. This has led to high-profile joint initiatives on the world stage, such as the International Solar Alliance. But the 'Partnership for the Planet' is more than that: it is made up of tangible projects in India, which advance a greener, more inclusive future.

Thierry Mathou

Ambassador of France to India

A priority partner

What do one-horned rhino protection in Assam, Pune's metro system, and Chandigarh's future water supply system have in common? Behind each of these projects stands the French Development Agency (AFD), India's steadfast partner to achieve its sustainability goals. The AFD Group is the operational arm of France's international partnership strategy. It comprises AFD, its private sector arm Proparco, and the technical cooperation agency Expertise France. It pursues a holistic approach to development, seeking to harmonise growth with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is engaged in over 4,200 projects across more than 150 countries. Last year alone, the AFD Group approved more than 1,000 new projects worth €13.5 billion.

India has long been a priority partner for AFD, which is active in four strategic sectors: energy transition, sustainable urban development, biodiversity conservation and resilience of territories, and reduction of inequalities. Since 2008, the AFD Group has committed more than €4 billion for nearly 100 projects in India, which are implemented by Indian public and private partners. That makes India the number one partner of the AFD in terms of financial exposure. A whopping 83% of its portfolio contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and 63% addresses gender equality.

During my official visits across India, I have seen some of the AFD Group-financed achievements and heard the feedback from their Indian partners. They have all spoken of the true spirit of partnership in their relations with AFD or Proparco, which has led to building bridges between our two countries through the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

In 2023 alone, AFD approved four new loans in India totalling nearly €400 million for climate change projects: two credit lines to Indian public banks; a policy loan for Himachal Pradesh to boost its disaster risk management capacities; and a national programme for increased resilience in urban water management and sanitation in 20 cities to be selected through a challenge. Further, four environment protection projects were signed in 2023 and their implementation started. One is a project with Rajasthan for increasing forest cover, creating better conditions for wildlife to live and reproduce, while sustaining livelihoods of local communities. Another aims at improving sanitation in the small towns of Himachal Pradesh. The third seeks to improve solid waste management in 18 cities as part of CITIIS, India's flagship circular economy programme. Last, a green credit line with the State Bank of India was disbursed for electric buses and energy-efficient housing. Two projects, which were chalked out a few years ago, were commissioned in 2023: the Nagpur and Pune metro rails. I am proud of these joint achievements that will translate into real benefits for the people and the planet.

India has long been a priority partner for the AFD Group, which has committed more than €4 billion for nearly 100 projects in India since 2008

Private sector-led projects

Supporting private sector-led projects is also key in delivering real impact for local communities. One such example is Proparco's investment, along with other co-investors, of €11.2 million as growth capital in Sahyadri. It is the first international equity investment in a farmer-led organisation in India. The project will help 15,000 farmers reduce farm losses and the use of pesticides and fertilizers, as well as enable them to increase yields and the quality of their produce. In the health sector, Proparco approved in 2023 a €33 million equity investment in Quadria, an Indian private equity firm focused on investments in healthcare mid-caps across South and Southeast Asia. The project seeks to reduce the imbalance between affordable quality healthcare and the growing demand in underserved regions. These two projects showcase the private sector's role in achieving SDGs.

I see this partnership growing into two new areas. First, our bilateral initiatives are increasingly acquiring an Indo-Pacific dimension. This is already the case in our Indo-Pacific Parks Partnership, which pools expertise in biodiversity protection from France, India, and other partners in the region. Our next endeavour is the creation of a joint fund for scaling up green technologies being developed in the region. Second, innovation is increasingly at the heart of AFD's approach to India. AFD is always looking for innovative ideas that blend social inclusion with sustainability. The Indo-French Year of Innovation in 2026 will be a special moment to spotlight some of these solutions. Thanks to AFD and Proparco's commitments to India, France is proud to be India's steadfast partner in its journey towards a more resilient and equitable future.

Many obstacles before take off

The government has several hurdles to overcome in its Hosur airport project

STATE OF PLAY

Sanjay Vijayakumar
sanjay.v@thehindu.co.in

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's ambitious proposal for an international airport in Hosur in Krishnagiri district, which shares a boundary with Bengaluru, has brought cheer to the industrial community in the town.

However, some people have raised doubts about the proposal as a concession agreement signed between the Centre and the Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), the operator of Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, contains a clause against setting up a new airport within a 150-kilometre radius of the greenfield airport till 2033.

In the recently concluded Legislative Assembly session, Mr. Stalin said the proposed airport would be established on 2,000 acres of land in Hosur with a capacity to handle 3 crore passengers annually.

In recent years, Hosur has emerged as a nucleus for auto and electric vehicle manufacturing and electronics. It is a favoured investment destination by virtue of its proximity to the Electronic City. The State government has been implementing schemes to turn Hosur into a major economic hub. Mr. Stalin has said that the airport is essential to improve the socio-economic status of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts.

Soon after the announcement of the new airport, Bharatiya Janata Party State (BJP) president K. Annamalai and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Rajya Sabha MP P. Wilson had a heated debate. Mr. Annamalai dubbed it a "publicity stunt". He cited the response of then Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, General (retired) V.K. Singh, to a question raised in the Rajya Sabha by Mr. Wilson on the airport in Hosur. Mr. Singh had said that no airport could be constructed within a 150-km radius of the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru for 25 years starting 2008, in accordance with the agreement signed between the Centre and BIAL. Besides, the guidelines released by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation for setting up a new greenfield airport also state that new airports are not allowed to come up within an aerial distance of 150 km of an existing civilian airport.

Mr. Wilson, however, pointed out that he had requested the then Minister to ignore the concession agreement and termed it void ab-initio and against public interest. The Union government cannot unilaterally agree with a private body on commercial interests, without the State's consent, while sacrificing the interests of the people of Tamil Nadu and their rights of free movement, he said.

Mr. Wilson said that the Chief Minister has rightly asserted the rights of the people of Tamil Nadu by announcing the airport project. The announcement demonstrates the constitutional rights of free movement, development, and federalism, he added.

Mr. Wilson also said that Mr. Annamalai only referred to clause 8.1(a) of the Ministry of the Civil Aviation Guidelines (policy for setting up greenfield airports) to point out that a new airport cannot be established within 150 km of an existing airport. However, clause 8.1(b) of the policy clearly states that airports can be set up within a 150 km distance on a case-by-case basis, he pointed out.

As per the guidelines, if the application seeks to set up a greenfield airport within 150 km of an existing civilian airport, it would be considered by the Steering Committee. The Committee would consider all the relevant facts and circumstances including contractual liabilities, if any, and make suitable recommendations to the Central government. In 2017, the Centre had given approval for a greenfield airport at Jewar in Greater Noida, located 72 km from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, based on the recommendations of the Steering Committee.

Reportedly, Tamil Nadu has initiated talks with BIAL for the airport in Hosur. The move also comes at a time when Karnataka is looking for construction of a second airport in Bengaluru.

While there might be compelling reasons for setting up Hosur airport, the government has many hurdles to overcome. The DMK, which is part of the Opposition INDIA bloc, needs to bargain hard to get the nod from the Centre. Already, the relationship between the Centre and Tamil Nadu government has not been cordial on issues such as devolution of taxes.

For the proposal to come through, the government will need to overcome regulatory hurdles, develop the necessary infrastructure, and make it viable for all stakeholders.

Is the bad loan problem shifting to individuals from industries?

Though Indian banks are in the pink of health, the RBI is worried about slippages and delinquencies

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Until the mid-2010s, banks used to lend massive loans to big industries. When these businesses failed, their loans turned sour. Such bad loans stayed hidden for sometime. In 2015, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) carried out a review, following which skeletons tumbled out of the closet. The share of bad loans reached as high as 10% in 2017, which meant that nearly one in every 10 loans had turned bad. A variety of debt recovery channels including the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, were used to recover the money. Given the relatively high amount of loans lent to well-known companies, the failures to repay the loans were widely publicised.

Following this debacle, banks started offering fewer loans to industries. They also managed to recover more and more bad loans. As a result, banks reached the pink of health in 2024. The latest Financial Stability Report (FSR) of the RBI shows that Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) was at a decadal-low in March this year **(Chart 1)**. NPA is the share of total loans that are overdue for more than 90 days.

However, reducing loans to industries meant that banks had to look elsewhere to lend and earn. The mid-2010s also saw an increase in loans given to the retail sector. These included personal loans, credit card receivables, housing loans, and similar products. The period also saw a proliferation of instant loan apps, which enticed unsuspecting consumers, especially those younger and more digitally savvy, to take more loans, leading to a debt trap.

The share of retail loans grew so much that the sector surpassed both industries and services to have the most outstanding loans. The alarming growth was noticed by the RBI, which had to bring in regulatory measures to curb the rise. Still, the overall picture remains rosy. In fact, the GNPA ratio of personal loans has been reducing consistently reaching 1.2% in March 2024 – the lowest across sectors and within the segment **(Chart 2)**.

While the situation does not seem to be alarming, the RBI is clearly worried. In the recent FSR report, it has cited two signs of incipient stress, which it believes should be closely watched. The first sign has to do with slippages, which are fresh additions of bad loans in a year. The share of slippages from retail loans in the overall new additions of NPAs is increasing at a rapid pace. In FY24, slippages from retail loans (excluding home loans) formed 40% of fresh additions of NPAs. **Chart 3** shows the bank-type wise split.

The second sign has to do with delinquency level. Even if dues are overdue for a day, an account can be termed delinquent. Persistent delinquency will eventually turn an account into a NPA. Delinquency levels among small borrowers with personal loans below ₹50,000 remain high. The RBI report says most of these loans were sanctioned by NBFC-Fintech lenders, which are the major drivers behind the digital lending apps which process loans within hours. Between April 2021 and July 2022, Google reviewed 3,500 to 4,000 loan apps and removed/suspended over 2,500 from its Play Store.

Delinquency levels for personal loans below ₹50,000 are persistently high in small finance banks and NBFC-Fintechs **(Chart 4).**

If NPAs can be termed as a disease, slippages and delinquencies are symptoms of that. While the banking system appears mostly disease-free, the RBI is worried about the symptoms and is sending one warning signal after another. This time, it is worried about individuals and not industries.

The charts are based on data sourced from the Financial Stability Report - June 2024, the Trend and Progress of Banking in India, the press releases of the Reserve Bank of India, and the Rajya Sabha

Chart 1: The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) was at a decadal-low in March this year. NPA is the share of total loans that are overdue for more than 90 days

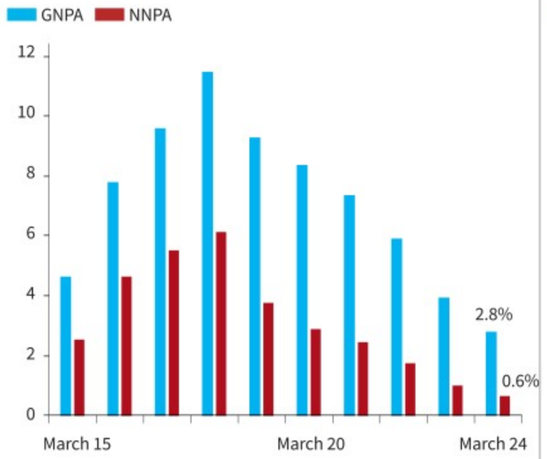


Chart 2: The GNPA ratio of personal loans has been reducing consistently, reaching 1.2% in March 2024 — the lowest across sectors and within the segment

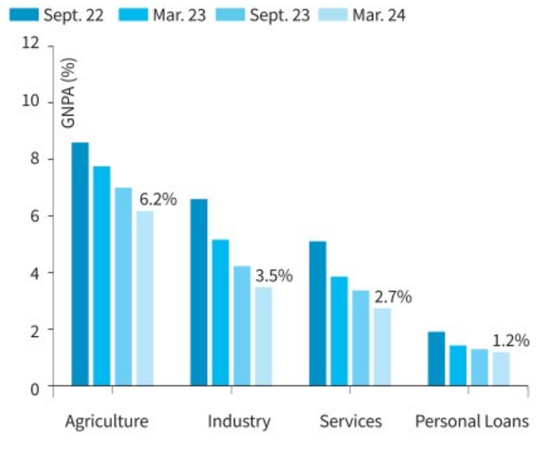


Chart 3: The bank-type wise split of the share of slippages from retail loans in the overall new additions of NPAs. The chart excludes slippages in home loans. Slippages are fresh additions of bad loans in a year

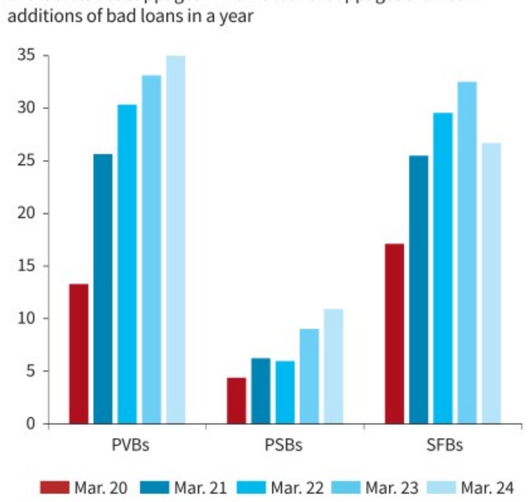
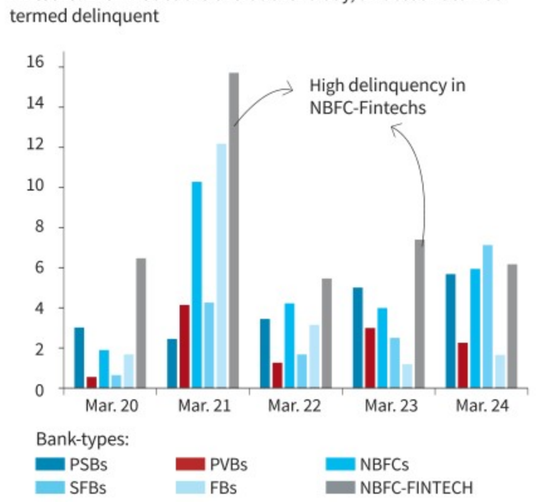


Chart 4: The delinquency levels for personal loans below ₹50,000 are persistently high in small finance banks and NBFC-Fintechs. Even if dues are overdue for a day, an account can be termed delinquent



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 3, 1974

Alarming rise in malaria incidence in south

Bangalore, July 2: The Health Minister of Karnataka, Mr. H. Siddaveerappa, has drawn the attention of the Central Government to what he characterised here to-day as the 'alarming' recrudescence of malaria not only in Karnataka but also in the entire South including Goa, and has asked for immediate remedial measures under the National Malaria Control and Eradication Programme.

Highlighting the growing incidence of malaria in Karnataka in particular, Mr. Siddaveerappa told pressmen here to-day that while there were only 768 attacks of malaria in the State in 1962, the number rose to 72,000 in 1973 and upto the end of May 1974, the attacks totalled 30,500. In Tamil Nadu the incidence had risen from 1,596 cases in 1964 to 4,400 in 1973, while the Kerala figures were 27 in 1964 and 689 in 1973 and 117 upto the end of May 1974.

It looked as if the malaria cycle had taken a reverse turn, Mr. Siddaveerappa said and feared that it might take at least ten years to reverse the trend and eradicate malaria all over again.

Dr. R.G. Roy, Deputy Director of the Regional Co-ordinating Organisation, National Malaria Eradication Programme also said here to-day that the scourge of malaria was causing serious concern in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and warned that if it were not contained it might harm hundreds of lives.

Mr. Siddaveerappa attributed the recrudescence of malaria largely to the shift in accent from the preventive to the curative aspect of public health and also to the paucity of funds to organise trained and elaborate staff to fight malaria. The malaria mosquitoes were breeding in a prolific manner because of the neglect of sewerage systems particularly in the urban areas and the general lack of appreciation of the importance of sanitation.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 3, 1924

Indian Emigration

Allahabad, July 2: The "Pioneer" understands that Kunwar Maharaj Singh has been provisionally selected to be the officer to be deputed by the Government of India to study the conditions in Mauritius with reference to the proposed reopening of the Indian immigration, subject to the acquiescence of the Mauritius Government.

From Page One

116 killed in a stampede at U.P. prayer meet

Recalling the horror, Shakuntala, an eyewitness said, "Everyone was trying to rush out of the venue after the *satsang* ended. The fields near the event were swampy. People started falling in the mud swamp, one above the other. Many got crushed amid the struggle."

Video of a woman sitting in between six bodies in a truck, urging people to help her get her daughter's body out of the vehicle, went viral on social media.

The godman is also scheduled to hold a similar *satsang* in Agra from July 4 whose permission was denied by the authorities after Tuesday's incident.

"The loss of life in the unfortunate accident in Hathras district is extremely sad and heart-wrenching. My condolences are with the bereaved family," Mr. Adityanath said. He said instructions were given to the officials to take up relief and rescue operations on a war-footing and to provide proper treatment to the injured.

Modi says in LS mandate is for continuity

The Prime Minister used the opportunity to counter the Opposition's allegations during the election campaign that the BJP was trying to end reservations and being "anti-constitutional", citing the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's remarks on the subject of reservation and the Congress's treatment of B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution.

He spent a significant amount of time holding forth on post-2014 India, praising the BJP government for instilling "self-confidence", which in turn has become a driver for development. He applauded his government for moving from an "appeasement model of governance" to a "saturation model of governance", where schemes are extended to all. "In our third term, we will work at triple the speed. Our third term means we will put in thrice the strength. In our third term, we will ensure three times the results," Mr. Modi said.

As the Prime Minister rose to speak, the Opposition trooped into the Well of the House, raising slogans on the situation in Manipur. They demanded that Mr. Modi visit the strife-ridden State, noting that he has not toured there since ethnic violence broke out on May 3, 2023. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's entreaties and reprimands did not have any impact on the Opposition, who kept sloganeering throughout the speech.

After spending about an hour on his government's past performance, Mr. Modi shifted gears to talk about election results. He commended the BJP's performance in the four Assembly elections that were held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls. Then he directed his attack on the Congress, which he said has once again been given the mandate to sit in Opposition. "This is the first time that the Congress has not crossed 100 seats for three consecutive times. Instead of conceding defeat, they are being arrogant. They are trying to build a narrative that they have beaten us," he said. In the 10 general elections, he said, the Congress has never crossed the 250 mark. Referring to the Congress as a "parasitic party", Mr. Modi said the Congress's strike rate in a direct face-off with the BJP was 26%, but where it was a junior party to a regional force, it won 50% of the seats. In 16 States where the Congress fought alone, he said, its vote share dropped.

Using stories and parables, Mr. Modi slammed Mr. Gandhi, calling out his maiden address as Leader of the Opposition as a "new drama" aimed at garnering sympathy. "They know the truth that they are out on bail for embezzlement of thousands of crores of rupees, have been convicted for calling OBC people thieves and they had to apologise for irresponsible comments on the country's top court," Mr. Modi said.

He accused the Congress of spreading "lies" about the Agnipath scheme, accusing the lead Opposition party of seeking to mislead the youth of the country into not joining the Army. "Lies were spoken regarding the [Agnipath] scheme and MSP. When seasoned leaders like him [Mr. Gandhi] choose this path of anarchy, it shows that the nation is headed for trouble," he said.

Restore my speech in full, Rahul tells Speaker

In his speech on Monday, the Congress leader made a scathing attack against the BJP, questioning the Hindu credentials of its leaders and accusing the party of dividing people. The Speaker removed 13 parts of his speech from the records.

Mr. Gandhi argued that while the Chair derived its power to expunge certain remarks from the proceedings of the House, the stipulation pertains only to such words as the nature of which have been specified in Rule 380 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.

"I am, however, shocked to note the manner in which considerable portions of my speech have been simply taken off from the proceedings under the garb of expunction," the Opposition leader said. "I am constrained to state that the portions expunged do not come under the ambit of Rule 380. What I sought to convey in the House is the ground reality and the factual position. Every member of the House who personifies the collective voice of people whom he or she represents has the freedom of speech as enshrined in Article 105(1) of the Constitution," Mr. Gandhi said.

Jaishankar to represent India in place of Modi at SCO summit in Kazakhstan

Xi, Putin, and Sharif are expected to attend; Modi's decision to skip Eurasian grouping meet could disappoint Central Asian countries as interactions with them have been cancelled twice in the past; meeting is expected to see discussions on multilateral cooperation in trade and fight against terror

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reached Astana in Kazakhstan on Tuesday to lead the Indian delegation at the SCO Council of Heads of State in place of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 3 and 4, the Ministry of External Affairs has said.

Leaders of other countries in the Eurasian group, newly expanded to include Belarus this year, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif and the Presidents of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will be hosted by Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the summit. Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Astana for a state visit and bilateral meetings ahead of the SCO, while Iran's President may not be able to attend as the country is in the middle of elections.

Shortly after landing, Mr. Jaishankar met Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu. In a social media post, he said that he had "discussed our expanding strategic partnership and India's increasing engagement with Central Asia in various formats".

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Kazakhstan Deputy Prime Minister Murat Nurtleu in Astana on Tuesday. X/@DRSJAISHANKAR

Mr. Jaishankar is expected to address the grouping during the plenary session on Thursday morning.

"At the summit, the leaders are expected to review the organisation's activities over the past two decades and discuss the state and prospects of multilateral cooperation. Topical issues of regional and international importance are also expected to be discussed at the meeting," the MEA said in a press release on Tuesday, which did not give any reason for Mr. Modi's decision not to attend the summit on July 4.

While Mr. Modi may still address the Eurasian grouping virtually, his decision to drop out of the summit in Kazakhstan will avoid awkward moments from sharing the stage with the Chinese President and Pakistan PM, given the tense ties with both countries. Mr. Modi is due to meet the Russian President next week in Moscow for a bilateral visit.

However, the absence of Mr. Modi in Astana could disappoint the Central Asian leadership, given that his planned engagements with them have been cancelled twice in recent years, once when they were invited to India for Republic Day in 2022 (the visit was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic), and when India turned the SCO Summit in July 2023 into a virtual format.

Given that the next SCO Heads of Government meet is due to be held in Pakistan later this year, and the next SCO Summit will be hosted by China in 2025, it remains to be seen whether Mr. Modi will attend future SCO events as well.

Astana Declaration

On Thursday, the SCO Council will adopt the Astana Declaration, which is expected to focus on strengthening ties between SCO countries on economic issues, connectivity, fighting terrorism and regional developments.

During the SCO Foreign Ministers meeting in May, MEA Secretary (Economic Relations) Dammu Ravi had promoted "maximising the utilisation of the Chabahar Port" as well as using the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) connecting India to Central Asia and Russia via Iran, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) that has been stalled due to the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Pakistan PM Mr. Sharif is expected to also offer Qasim port and Gwadar port for land-locked Central Asia's trade routes. India and Pakistan both became members of the SCO in 2017, and their leaders have often sparred at the high-level meetings over issues like terrorism and transit trade, including in Uzbekistan in 2022, and last year's SCO Foreign Minister's meeting in Goa.

The leaders are also expected to discuss developments in Afghanistan, given that nearly all SCO members are engaged closely with the Taliban regime in Kabul.

No topic off-limits: Russia

Press Trust of India
MOSCOW

Given the "very trusting nature" of the relationship between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, no topic is off-limits for the two leaders when they meet here soon, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday. The dates of Mr. Modi's visit to Moscow will be announced a bit later but preparations for it are already at their final stages, he said.

Describing Mr. Modi's visit as "very important", Mr. Peskov said the leaders will discuss regional and global security, trade and all other topics.

Bihar govt. moves SC against HC order quashing 65% quota

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The Bihar government moved the Supreme Court on Tuesday, challenging the Patna High Court's directive to 'set aside' the increase in the State's reservation for disadvantaged communities, from the existing 50% to 65%. This is the quota for SCs, STs, Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), and OBCs in government jobs and educational institutions.

The Bihar government's appeal before the top court was filed through advocate Manish Kumar. Senior advocate Dinu Kumar, representing the petitioners who had gone to the High Court against the quota hike, said, "Yes, the State government has filed an appeal before the Supreme Court today and our advocate Ayush Anand too has filed a caveat."

Following the release of a caste-based survey report in 2022, the government had decided to increase the quota from 50% to 65%. Immediately afterwards, PIL petitions were filed in the Patna HC, challenging the quota hike as a "violation of the right to equal opportunity for citizens in matters of employment and education".

Mr. Dinu argued that the Supreme Court had imposed a 50% cap of reservations in the *Indira Sawhney* case. He told the Patna HC that the State's decision was taken "on the basis of the proportion of castes".

Appearing for the government, Advocate-General P.K. Shahi insisted that the quota hike was due to the lack of adequate representation of these classes.

Constable-turned-spiritual preacher Suraj Pal has considerable following

Anuj Kumar
GHAZIABAD

More than 100 people were killed in a stampede on Tuesday at a religious congregation conducted by spiritual preacher Suraj Pal in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Pal, popularly addressed as Narayan Sakar Hari or Bhole Baba, hails from Bahadur Nagar village in the Patiyali tehsil of Kasganj district in Uttar Pradesh.

His followers come from many places in the western and central parts of Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring States, and prominent political leaders have also been seen at his programmes. Sources said Mr. Pal was a constable in the local intelligence unit of the Uttar Pradesh Police until the 1990s when he turned to spirituality, adopted a new name, and started giving public sermons about leading a pious life. He described himself as a disciple of Narayan Sakar Hari and asked his followers to find the Almighty within.

A poster featuring Suraj Pal.

Large ashram

Mr. Pal's Narayan Sakar Hari ashram in the village is spread over 30 acres. He moves with a cavalcade of cars and has his personal security. He maintains a distance from the media but has a considerable following in villages. People in the area said there are no idols in the ashram.

In his early 60s, he usually dresses in a white coat and trousers and wears colourful sunglasses. His followers, most of whom are women, are usually dressed in pink and worship him as "Bhole Baba". His wife, who is often present during congregations, is addressed as "Matashri".

In 2014, he shifted base from Bahadur Nagar to Bichhwa in Mainpuri, leaving the ashram to be managed by a local administrator. However, he continued to hold congregations in the region which were scheduled on Tuesdays. Sources said despite Mr. Pal shifting base, the ashram had a footfall of up to 12,000 every day.

Local media sources said mismanagement was common at the congregations. "It was written about but the administration showed a soft corner towards the ashram. Even during the COVID lockdown, his followers were allowed to worship at the ashram," said a local journalist.

In Patiyali, which has voted for the Samajwadi Party candidate in the Lok Sabha polls, meanings are already being drawn about the political affiliation of Mr. Pal. While Bharatiya Janata Party supporters used social media to point out that SP president Akhilesh Yadav had shared the stage with Mr. Pal in 2023, SP sources accused the BJP affiliates of using Mr. Pal to mislead Dalits by keeping them away from the Ambedkarite movement.

Text of laws changed but criminal justice administration awaits reforms: Bajpai

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The text of the three criminal laws may have been changed but the real test lies with reforms of the criminal justice administration, and expecting the news laws to function from the first day is not feasible, says G.S. Bajpai, who headed the first committee set up by the Union Home Ministry in 2020 to examine the laws.

Mr. Bajpai told *The Hindu* that the lower judiciary was stressed and there was huge pendency of cases, and it was unrealistic to expect that the new laws would function immediately.

"The Indian Penal Code evolved in more than 100 years till it was scrapped in 2023. Expecting these laws to kick off from first day is not feasible, and the effects of their implementation will be known in six to 12 months," Mr. Bajpai said, adding that 70% text of the old laws had been retained in the new laws.

G.S. Bajpai

According to the National Judicial Data Grid, as on Tuesday, there were 3.4 crore cases pending in district courts across India, out of which nearly 1 crore cases were pending for more than a year.

From July 1, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872; and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Implementation panel

Mr. Bajpai said he had written to the Law Ministry to constitute a National Implementation Committee to enable sharing of information and challenges pertaining to the new laws as they were implemented.

"A dashboard can be created where all stakeholders can upload the challenges and issues being faced during implementation of the laws," he said.

The BNSS mandates audio-video recording of search and seizure in each criminal case and forensic examination in all crimes punishable by more than seven years. All such records will have to be submitted before the court in electronic format "without delay". Under the BNSS, the courts will have to frame charges within 60 days of the first hearing and deliver the judgment within 30-45 days from the date of completion of arguments.

"Theoretically, the police will have to record everything. What will be the total range of issues while recording will be known in a few days," he said.

Mr. Bajpai was the convener of the Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws set up by the Ministry.

"The reforms have been made to the criminal laws but not to the criminal justice administration. The operational aspects rest with the criminal justice system," Mr. Bajpai said.

"The human resources available with judiciary compared to the number of cases that are pending are too low. Now the cases will be tried under the new laws and the judiciary does not have the futuristic planning to cope with the pressure," he added.

End my suspension: Srinagar shrine priest

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Kamal-ud-Din Farooqui, head priest of the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar, on Tuesday sought the intervention of the Lieutenant-Governor's (L-G) administration to end his debarment from the shrine.

He was suspended by the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board in April after a non-local Hindu converted to Islam at the shrine. The ceremony was presided over by Mr. Farooqui.

The Board, headed by BJP leader Darakshan Andrabi, had accused him of "forcible conversion". "We seek the government's intervention. This is a matter of religious delicacy and sentiment. The board has no mandate to interfere with religious practices. The Constitution gives religious freedom to practice, profess, and propagate any religion," he said.

APPEAL

I am **Venkata Sathya Narayana** aged 17 years old advised to undergo Complex Open Heart Surgery at The Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 5,10,000/-**. My family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help me to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No:60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

VENKATA SATHYA NARAYANA

Opposition hits back after uproar over Rahul's remarks in Lok Sabha

INDIA bloc leaders build a counter-narrative of being the 'real Hindus'; House adjourned *sine die*; Akhilesh Yadav asserts that the election has put an end to communal politics, attacks govt. on paper leaks, EVMs, unemployment and reservation

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his BJP colleagues accused the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, of insulting the Hindu community, Opposition leaders built a counter-narrative of being the "real Hindus" while speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament.

After the passage of the Motion, the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha was adjourned *sine die* on Tuesday.

Earlier, during the debate, Congress leader K.C. Venugopal said the BJP was using Hindu religion to polarise people and win the election.

Scathing attack: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav speaking in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. ANI

"Mahatma Gandhi and [Nathuram] Godse both believed in Bhagavad Gita. But Gandhi learnt tolerance, non-violence and the message of Bhagavad Gita and Lord Krishna. Godse learnt violence and intolerance from the same text. We are followers of Gandhi's Hinduism, not Godse's Hinduism," he said.

His party colleague Gaurav Gogoi said the Prime Minister may believe in his divine origins but the mandate proved that he was human.

Awadhesh Prasad, Samajwadi Party (SP) MP for Faizabad in Ayodhya, said the BJP's loss in Lord Ram's birthplace not only made domestic headlines but international ones as well. "In this 29-page President's Address, there is no mention of Ayodhya, the land of Lord Ram," he said.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said the BJP's defeat in Faizabad conveyed the wisdom of voters and had brought an end to communal politics. "The victory in Ayodhya is the victory of mature voters' democratic understanding," he said.

He lashed out at the government over a spectrum of issues – from paper leaks including the recent NEET exam, unemployment, Agnipath scheme, caste census and the conduct of the Lok Sabha election.

Questioning the functioning of the electronic voting machines, Mr. Yadav said: "I did not trust EVMs yesterday, I don't trust them today. And even if I win all 80 seats [in Uttar Pradesh], I will not trust EVMs."

On the NEET row, he said: "The achievement of last 10 years is the birth of an education mafia. The most prestigious paper in the country was also leaked... The government is enabling leaks because they don't want to give jobs to youth."

Reflecting on the 2024 electoral mandate, he said the election was a moral victory for the INDIA bloc.

"June 4, 2024 was the day of independence from communal politics for India. In this election, communal politics has lost forever," he added.

Kharge targets Modi over his jibe at Rahul in LS speech

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said 140 crore Indians conveyed the same message to him, as the phrase he used for the Congress, in the Lok Sabha election.

Hitting back at *tumse na ho payega* [you are not up to it] jibe of Mr. Modi at Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, in a X post, he said: "The way you mentioned '*Tumse Na Ho Payega*' in your speech of two hours and 24 minutes, 140 crore Indians have said the same thing to your government in this election".

"Modi*ji*, you have insulted the mandate. Understand the sentiments of the people. Give up dictatorship," he said.

INBRIEF

At meeting, Modi advises NDA MPs to always keep nation first

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) MPs to execute their responsibilities by always keeping the nation first and learn about parliamentary practices from senior members. Speaking with presspersons, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said the first meeting of the NDA parliamentary party was held on Tuesday. During the meeting, Mr. Rijiju said the Prime Minister shared a key "mantra" with all the MPs. He said the MPs, irrespective of the parties they belonged to, had come to Parliament to serve the country and that they should always keep the nation first.

Engineer Rashid gets custody parole to take oath as MP

A Delhi court on Tuesday granted custody parole to Sheikh Abdul Rashid, aka Engineer Rashid, to take oath as a Member of Parliament on Friday. The Additional Sessions Judge of the Patiala House court allowed Mr. Rashid two hours, or till the time oath proceedings take place, whichever is later. The order was passed after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) gave its consent for Mr. Rashid to take oath. He had won the Lok Sabha election as an Independent candidate from Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir. In jail since 2019, Mr. Rashid has been charged by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in an alleged terror-funding case.

Complaint filed against Rahul Gandhi for 'remark on Hindus'

A complaint has been filed in Bihar against Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, on Tuesday over his recent remark on Hindus in Parliament. Divyanshu Kishore, a Hindu outfit leader, filed the case in the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court of Muzaffarpur. The court has accepted the complaint and the next hearing will take place on July 15. In the complaint, Mr. Kishore has accused Mr. Gandhi of hurting the sentiments of Hindus. In his maiden speech in the 18th Lok Sabha on Monday, criticising the top BJP leadership, the Congress leader said: "Those who call themselves Hindus indulge in hate and violence round the clock."

Rahul urges PM to facilitate debate in LS on NEET issue

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting him to facilitate a debate on the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) issue in the House on Wednesday.

He said the Opposition's request to discuss the issue related to the medical entrance test was denied in both Houses of Parliament on June 28 and on Monday.

"I am writing to request for a debate in Parliament on NEET," he said in his letter to the Prime Minister on Tuesday.

"Our aim is to engage constructively to find a way forward. At this moment, our only concern is the welfare of nearly 24 lakh NEET aspirants across India," he said.

'Rebuilding faith'

Referring to the government's move to postpone other examinations and replace the Director-General of the National Testing Agency, the Congress leader said these moves were to "cover up the systemic breakdown of our centralised testing system".

"Our students deserve answers. A parliamentary debate is the first step towards rebuilding and restoring their faith," he said.

"Given the urgency of the matter, I request the government to facilitate a debate in the House tomorrow. I believe that it would be fitting if you were to lead this debate in the interest of the students," Mr. Gandhi said.

Kharge asks V-P not to spread RSS ideology

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid continuing attacks from Opposition benches in the Rajya Sabha during the debate on the Motion to Thank the President for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament, the BJP fielded the leader of the Upper House J.P. Nadda to counter the attack.

Mr. Nadda targeted the Congress and said the party that had imposed Emergency and tried to dilute reservations was speaking about democracy and protecting reservations.

In his speech, Mr. Nadda said the Narendra Modi government had worked to ensure global economic crises did not impact India. He said Mr. Modi had provided support to industries so that the economy remained insulated from external problems.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's statement in the House, in which he said he had been an *Ekalavya* (disciple) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) since he had left the Congress, and that he considered leaders of the RSS as saintly people, was questioned by Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who urged Mr. Dhankhar not to spread an ideology from the Chair.

In their speeches, the Opposition members took up several issues, including unemployment, paper leaks and problems in the education sector. Samajwadi Party (SP) leader and senior MP Ram Gopal Yadav said the President's speech had been silent on rampant corruption.

Mallikarjun Kharge

Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) MP A.A. Rahim said there had been no mention of unemployment in the President's speech. The Aam Aadmi Party's Raghav Chadha said two IPLs were played in the country – one was the Indian Premier League for cricket, and the second was the "Indian Paper Leak", and that the National Testing Agency now stood for "No Trust Anymore".

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, too, demanded strict action against those who are responsible for the widespread irregularities in the exam process.

Trinamool Congress member Sagarika Ghose mentioned the lynching of three men in Chhattisgarh by a mob a few days ago. Pointing to the delegitimisation of the Opposition, she said there was a "democracy deficit" in the nation, adding that the civil war in Manipur was continuing without redress.

P. Wilson of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam also raised the NEET issue.

"The Tamil Nadu Assembly has recently moved a resolution seeking exemption for Tamil Nadu from NEET, or to scrap NEET for admission to medical courses. Therefore, we seek the Prime Minister's immediate attention, either to approve the Bill passed by the State government, or to bring about amendments to the National Medical Council Act so NEET and other exams are given up on the national-level," he said.

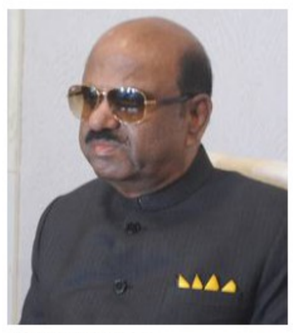
Woman in Chopra flogging incident refuses to meet Bengal Governor

Shiv Sahay Singh
SILIGURI

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose was on Tuesday forced to cut short his visit to north Bengal after the woman who was seen being beaten up by a man publicly in a viral video, refused to meet him.

"The victim wants to be left alone, and I will respect her right," Mr. Bose told presspersons before leaving for Delhi.

The Governor took a morning flight from Bagdogra to Siliguri on Tuesday, and elaborate arrangements were made, including deployment of the police, at Chopra in Uttar Dinajpur, where the flogging was shot.



C.V. Ananda Bose

The Islampur police *suo motu* arrested the accused, Tajimul Islam, and he has been remanded in police custody for five days. Instead of demanding action against the perpetrators of violence, the survivor sought action against those who had made the one-minute video clip go viral.

"I do not know who the person beating me up was," she told presspersons.

Asked if the woman had been pressured into declining a meeting with him, the Governor said, "If any malpractice has taken place, we will look into it."

The woman, however, said that she had not stopped the Governor from visiting her house.

Mr. Bose, meanwhile, met the survivor of a mob assault at Mathabhanga in Cooch Behar district. "I have no faith in Mamata Banerjee's police. I was stripped and beaten up by supporters of the Trinamool Congress. The Governor assured me that he will stand by me," the woman, who highlighted her allegiance to the BJP, said.

In another incident at Fulbari in Jalpiaguri district, a woman was found dead after she was tried for alleged adultery at a kangaroo court.

She was assaulted by the local people publicly. While it was Trinamool MLA Hamidur Rahaman who had raised questions about the character of the woman at Chopra, the husband of local panchayat leader Shambu Roy cast aspersions on the Fulbari victim.

Four persons have been arrested.

Manipur facing civil war-like crisis, but PM is silent: MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress MP A. Bimol Akoijam made a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for remaining silent on Manipur, which has been affected by ethnic violence for the past one year.

In a late-night speech in the Lok Sabha on Monday, he said there is a civil war-like situation in Manipur, "yet our Prime Minister has remained mute, not even a word".

Mr. Akoijam, who was the last to speak on Monday, around 11.45 p.m., on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to Parliament, expressed his anguish over the absence of any reference to ethnic violence-hit Manipur in President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

A professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), the first-time Congress MP from Inner Manipur drew the attention of the House to the 60,000 people living in wretched conditions in relief camps in Manipur for more than a year.

"I will keep quiet the moment the Prime Minister opens his mouth, and the nationalist party [BJP] says that Manipur is a part of India and we care for the people of that State," said Mr. Akoijam.

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1st CORRIGENDUM
"e"- Procurement Notice No.07/OCCL/2024-25 (on-line)
1. The availability of tender on-line start date is hereby extended to **18.07.2024** instead of 03.07.2024.
2. The date of opening of the tender (on-line) is hereby postponed to **02.08.2024** instead of 19.07.2024
All other terms and conditions remain unaltered.
CAD-414
MANAGING DIRECTOR
OIPR-34120/11/0017/2425

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारत्न कंपनी)
Coal India Limited (CIL) has launched **NIRMAN (Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Service Examination)** scheme as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility activities to provide financial support of Rs. 1 lakh each to candidates hailing from its mining districts who qualify the preliminary round of Civil Service & Forest Service examination 2024 conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
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Details can be seen on the websites http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in. Bids are to be submitted through http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
Raj.Samwad/C/24/1535
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DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
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No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-02(A)/24-25 Dt:02.07.2024
Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-02/24-25 dt 10.06.24 **"Structural repairs works at SMPC Unit-II, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-007, Est. cost ₹ 14.63 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 15.07.2024.** Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
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No.2542 Dtd.29.06.2024
1. The **Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage Rate** bids in double cover system **in ONLINE MODE** for the construction of **Bridge works** as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works = **02 NOS (TWO) (BRIDGE WORKS)**
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6. Date of opening of Technical Bid : **23.07.2024 at 11.00 Hours.**
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**
8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**
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Bids for Rate Contract for Supply of Man power for Medical college, Barmer and Attached District Hospital Barmer are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM 13-07-2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and departmental website http://www.education.rajasthan.gov.in/mcbarmer.
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INBRIEF

Assam flood situation turns grim, death toll rises to 38

The flood situation in Assam turned grim on Tuesday affecting more than 11.34 lakh people across 28 districts in the State with Lakhimpur being the most affected due to the fast-flowing rivers in the area. Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said two waves of floods – the second began on June 16 – have killed 38 people since May. "The number of flood-affected districts increased from 19 to 28 in the span of 24 hours. Three people, two in Tinsukia and one in the Dhemaji district, drowned during this period," an ASDMA spokesperson said. Lakhimpur continued to be the worst-affected district.

IAF chief inaugurates weapon systems school in Hyderabad

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari on Tuesday inaugurated the newly established Weapon Systems School at Air Force Station, Begumpet, Hyderabad. This follows the approval for the creation of a new Weapon System branch in 2022. "The new branch will have four streams; flying stream to operate the weapons and systems in airborne platforms like the Sukhoi-30 MKI and C-130J; remote stream to operate remotely piloted aircraft; mission commanders and operators for Surface to Air and Surface-to-Surface weapon systems, and intelligence stream for handling space-based intelligence and imagery," the IAF said.

Woman cuts off man's genitals for refusing to marry her

A woman in Saran district of Bihar on Monday allegedly cut off the genitals of a man and flushed them down the toilet after he refused to marry her, the police said on Tuesday. The 26-year-old woman was said to be in a relationship with the 30-year-old victim for the past five years. The woman claims to be a medical practitioner and runs a nursing home in the the Marhaura police station limits in Saran. The man is a ward councillor in the the Marhaura Nagar Panchayat. The woman has been arrested. "A case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on July 1," Saran Superintendent of Police Kumar Ashish said.

Five die, 30 fall ill at children's home; investigation ordered

At least five children have died and 30 more have fallen ill at a children's home in Madhya Pradesh's Indore in the past three days, district officials said on Tuesday. All the deceased children are aged under 14 and they were residing at the Bal Ashram of Shri Yugpurush Dham in the Malharganj police station area of the city. While the cause of deaths is yet to be officially ascertained, an official said that it was suspected to be food poisoning in four cases. Indore District Magistrate Asheesh Singh said that the food was prepared at the kitchen of the children's home and samples have been collected and sent for examination.

Five Naxals killed in Chhattisgarh, say police

Press Trust of India
NARAYANPUR

Five Naxalites were killed in an encounter in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, the police said.

The gunfight took place in a forest in Abujhmad, a hilly forest area, when a joint team of personnel from different security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation, a senior police official said. "The search operation is still under way," he said, adding that security personnel were reported to be safe.

The operation, involving personnel of the District Reserve Guard, Special Task Force, Border Security Force and Indo-Tibetan Border Police from different districts, was launched on Sunday, the police said.

138 dead so far

With the latest incident, the number of Naxalites killed so far this year in separate encounters with security forces in the State has risen to 138.

While 136 Maoists were gunned down in the Bastar division that comprises seven districts, including Narayanpur, two others were killed in Dhamtari district under the Raipur division.

Fact-check unit needed to protect people from fake news: Centre in Bombay HC

The petitioners have contended that the purpose of the FCU is to bring total censorship on anything that the government does not want people to know, discuss, debate, or question

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tiebreaker judge Justice A.S. Chandurkar of the Bombay High Court on Tuesday continued hearing the arguments by the Union government in the petitions filed by comedian Kunal Kamra and others challenging Rule 3(1)(b)(v) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The Rule empowers the government to establish a fact-check unit (FCU) to identify fake, false, and misleading information about its business on social media.

Defending the FCU, the Union government, through Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, said it will prevent people from false information. Mr. Mehta contended that the right to know and the right to not be misled are equally important as the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a).

> Many State governments have FCU, such as Kerala and Uttarakhand ... If we [the Union government] do not fact-check, it will be a dereliction of duty
>
> **TUSHAR MEHTA**
> Solicitor-General

Citing multiple examples of fake news and misinformation floating on social media, Mr. Mehta said, "Many State governments have FCU, such as Kerala and Uttarakhand. In fact, even private firms have FCU, including news organisations who partner with intermediaries to flag false information. If we [the Union government] do not fact-check, it will be a dereliction of duty."

Mr. Mehta said that a fake news about the Election Commission had floated on social media saying that the poll body would deduct ₹350 from the accounts of people who chose not to vote.

"It is a serious matter and can lead to serious consequences. What objection do the petitioners have here? The petitioners have contended that this will have a chilling effect as intermediaries will take things down out of fear. But there are several things that ought to have been taken down, but they have not been. We have written to YouTube but they have not taken it down citing their community guidelines. There is no chilling effect. And all these accounts are monetised accounts that work on the model of number of subscribers," he said.

The Solicitor-General also mentioned how the U.S. suffered during the pandemic with misinformation and fake news being spread on social media.

"We (government) are not the final arbiter here. Just like individuals, the government can also intimate. The FCU is a methodical way of doing that. And being a statutory regime, it has consequences. We are not the arbiter. The first arbiter is the intermediary, the final arbiter is a court of competent jurisdiction. Right to be informed correctly is necessarily inherent in my right under Article 21. Because, if somebody's freedom of speech incites violence or threatens public order, it directly infringes my right under Article 21," he added.

The Centre will continue its arguments on July 24 and 25, while the the petitioners' rejoinder is scheduled on July 29, 30, and 31.

In April, the petitioners concluded their arguments contending that the purpose of the FCU was to bring total state censorship on anything that the government does not want people to know, discuss, debate, or question.

HC seeks CBI's response on Kejriwal's plea against arrest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on a plea by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging his arrest in a corruption case related to the excise policy 'scam'.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna issued notice to the CBI and asked it to file its reply within seven days. The High Court posted the case for arguments on July 17.

The Aam Aadmi Party national convener has also challenged a June 26 order of the trial court, which remanded him in the CBI's custody for three days. The court had on June 29 extended Mr. Kejriwal's judicial custody till July 12, saying his name had surfaced as one of the main conspirators.

It had also remarked that his further custodial interrogation might be required as the investigation is under way.

The CBI arrested Mr. Kejriwal on June 26 from the Tihar Jail, where he was remanded till July 3 in a related money-laundering case being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate.

Courts subservient only to the might of Constitution and no other authority: CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Tuesday said courts should bow to the might of no authority other than the Constitution, and serve no one but litigants.

"The foundation of a court must be sound – both in its structural and philosophical capacity. It must subserve no might but the Constitution and be in service of no one but the litigants. Our courts are not merely sights of sovereign power but are also essential public service providers," the Chief Justice noted.

The Chief Justice warned judges against delivering "rough, ready and handy justice", but to cherish the rule of law and procedural guarantees.

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud at the foundation stone laying ceremony of court buildings in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Chief Justice Chandrachud said climate change could no longer be ignored, while referring to the intense heatwaves followed by deluge suffered by the national capital.

"This year, Delhi experienced the hottest recorded weather. We have experienced two heatwaves followed by record breaking rain in a single day. Our infrastructure must reflect the reality we live... One crucial step is to incorporate a green lifestyle into our daily lives, which includes reducing carbon emissions," the Chief Justice Chandrachud said at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the new court buildings at Karkardooma, Shastri Park and Rohini.

Advanced medium combat aircraft prototype expected to be ready by 2028-29

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

As the project for the design and development of the indigenous fifth generation fighter aircraft (FGFA), Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), makes progress, the Defence Ministry is working out a model for bringing in the private sector in a big way, which is important for timely execution of the project, according to official sources. The first prototype is expected to be ready by 2028-29.

"The design of the AMCA is ready. The prototype is expected to roll out by 2028-29 and the production is expected to begin from 2032-33. The target is to have it ready for induction in 2034, a decade from project sanction," an official source said. In preparation to have the manufacturing and deliveries on track, there is significant private industry involvement that is being envisaged. "We have to decide a model for private sector involvement. A model is expected to be worked out in the next six months," an official source said.

The Defence Ministry has already issued an Expression of Interest (EoI) to the industry and three responses were received. The target is to have the AMCA ready for induction by 2034

The AMCA project is particularly critical as it is India's only FGFA that is planned for induction at a time when a series of such FGFA development projects are making progress worldwide. China, which has made great progress in the development and deployment of FGFAs, has recently deployed its twin-engine J-20 FGFA in Tibet bordering India.

CCS clearance

The AMCA project got sanction from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in March. It is envisaged as a 25-tonne twin-engine stealth aircraft with internal weapons bay and diverterless supersonic intake which has been developed in India for the first time.

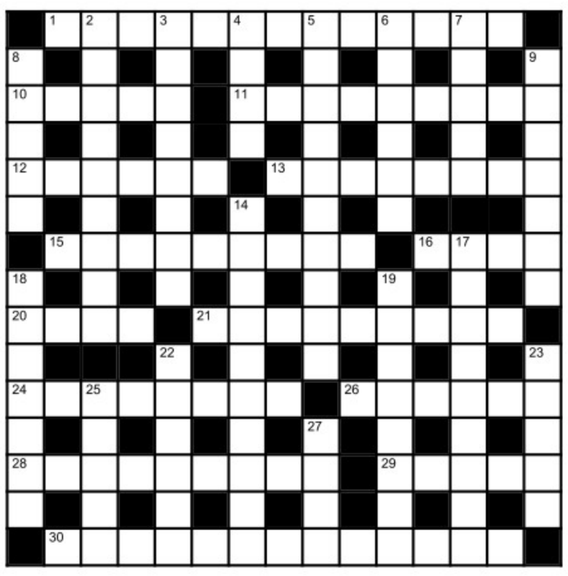
It is intended to have an internal carriage of 1,500 kg of payload and 5,500 kg of external payload with 6,500 kg of internal fuel. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which is the production agency for the project, has already initiated manufacturing activities.

TH CROSSWORD + 14217

(set by Spinner)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Following Pythagoras' lead, peculiar nerd turned at ninety degrees (13)
10 Percentage of quota not fulfilled (5)
11 West Indies coming with extremely laurelled aces - they don't need to get through qualification! (4,5)
12 Work from test site owned by us (6)
13 Guess English's complicated, at times! (8)
15 Line-up comes before kick-off, as time runs out in front of essentially tempestuous audience! (9)
16 Dealing with love, silly! (2,2)
20 Female choir's reverberation (4)
21 Get shot by mistake while not being the intended target? (9)
24 Dodgy check is caught in large heist upfront (8)
26 Deceitful U-turn awkwardly exposed leader (6)
28 Support side finally with new captain, as old as you and me! (9)
29 Intense performance about upper-class eccentricities, primarily (5)
30 Caution : Spinner's returning with power and will! (13)

Down

2 Doctor hails best form (9)
3 Publicity over channel beginning to sell goods! (8)
4 Scientist not working for slippery customer? (4)
5 Clarify incorrect American cess trapping top taxpayers (10)
6 Mischief-maker swaying without taking either side (6)
7 Patriarchy shackles parts of the heart (5)
8 Faithfully obedient after troubling at first (5)
9 Basically adds forced stress? (7)
14 Fanaticism perhaps unseats him? (10)
17 Main menu cooked with complete, unending love (6,3)
18 Accepts sender's first letters randomly with no address, essentially! (7)
19 Every association worker is rich (8)
22 Set clues having a catch! (6)
23 Enjoy part of movie featuring chief villain (5)
25 Hoard auditor's money (5)
27 Spotted rival players getting exercise on the sides (4)

SUDOKU

					3	7	2	
					1		8	
	1		4			6		9
		1	3		2	8		
				6				
		3	1		7	2		
3		7			4		5	
	6		2					
	4	5	7					

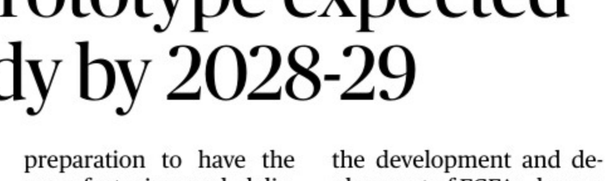
No.SS6208 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	2	8	3	7	9	6	5
6	9	7	4	5	1	8	3	2
8	5	3	6	2	9	1	7	4
5	4	8	3	1	6	7	2	9
3	7	9	2	4	8	5	1	6
1	2	6	9	7	5	4	8	3
7	6	1	5	9	3	2	4	8
2	3	5	7	8	4	6	9	1
9	8	4	1	6	2	3	5	7



FAITH

Aim is to establish dharma

The avataras of Lord Vishnu such as Matsya, Koorma and Varaha were for specific reasons and hence called Amsavathara. The manifestations of the Lord as Sri Rama and Sri Krishna were to establish dharma, protect righteous men and destroy unrighteous and impious (*Parithranaya Sadhunam*) and hence called *Purnavathara* (complete and total.)

Dr. Sudha Seshaian said in a discourse the state of enjoying the divine bliss is called *Paramanandham*. The sloka *Vasudeva Sutham devam* says Sri Krishna's mother Devaki derives *Paramanandham*. Usually, a mother would be happy when giving birth to a child. But Devaki, while in prison, was afraid towards her brother Kamsa, who was eager to kill her yet-to-be-born eighth baby. How could she derive Paramanandham under such a precarious situation? Lord Krishna did not cry when He was born and showed His divine form to Devaki, holding a disc, conch, mace, and lotus in four hands. That moment was Devaki's enjoyment of divine bliss. By His conduct and behaviour, Lord Krishna portrayed Himself as the best Karmayogi. At the end of each day during the Mahabharatha war, Sri Krishna, as a charioteer, had done his duty of feeding, nursing and bathing the horses before leaving them in the stable and had not delegated to anyone.

INBRIEF

TAFE inks pact with Deutz AG to grow ICE business in India

TAFE Motors and Tractors Ltd. said it had signed a pact with Germany-based internal combustion engine (ICE) maker Deutz AG to jointly manufacture Deutz range of engines in India. Deutz has signed a long-term cooperation with TAFE Motors, the subsidiary of the leading tractor maker TAFE Ltd., that allows the former to expand its business in India. The engines will be produced in TAFE Motors' facility at Alwar, TAFE Motors said.

Rane Holdings to buy balance 51% from JV partner NSK

Rane Holdings Ltd. (RHL) said it had decided to buy out the remaining 51% stake from its joint venture partner NSK Ltd. in Rane NSK Steering Systems Pvt. Ltd. for a total cash consideration of ₹45 crore. Post-acquisition, the company will become a wholly owned subsidiary of RHL and will be named as Rane Steering Systems Pvt. Ltd. (RSSL), subject to necessary approvals, the Rane group firm said in a statement. The transaction is expected to be completed by September.

Coal production rose 14% to 84.63 MT in June: Ministry

The country's coal production rose by 14.49% to 84.63 million tonne (MT) in June. The country's coal output was 73.92 MT in June last fiscal, according to provisional figures of the government. In June, Coal India Ltd's (CIL) production was at 63.10 MT, registering a rise of 8.87% compared with the same period last year, the coal ministry said in a statement. India's coal dispatch in June was at 85.76 MT, up by 10.15% compared with the same period last year. PTI

Hindenburg refutes SEBI's allegations on its Adani short bet

Hindenburg says a Kotak Mahindra Bank unit oversaw an offshore fund used by its 'investor partner' to short Adani shares; says it made $4.1 mn

Reuters

Hindenburg Research refuted allegations on Monday from India's SEBI accusing the company of colluding with a U.S. asset manager to use non-public information to set up its short bet against Adani Group last year.

In a statement posted on its website, U.S.-based short-seller Hindenburg shared a copy of a 46-page show cause notice from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) outlining the allegations that six entities including Hindenburg, asset manager Kingdon Capital Management and a Mauritus-based fund set up by Kotak Mahindra Bank violated certain rules under the Prevention of Fraud and Unfair Trade Practices regulation.

The allegations, if proven, could result in monetary penalties and the payback of any illegal gains.

Hindenburg termed the notice as "nonsense" and an attempt to silence and intimidate by alleging that Hindenburg's report contained misrepresentations and inaccurate statements meant to mislead readers.

"In our view, SEBI has neglected its responsibility, seemingly doing more to protect those perpetrating fraud than to protect the investors being victimized by it," Hindenburg said.

The disclosure of the SEBI notice adds a new twist in the saga that began last year when Hindenburg, founded by Nathan Anderson, alleged improper business dealings by Adani.

Adani, which refuted the allegations, suffered a loss of as much as $150 billion in combined market value after the report, but has since rebounded.

In its notice, SEBI alleges Hindenburg colluded with its client Kingdon Capital Management by providing a draft of its report on Adani before it was released publicly.

SEBI alleges that Mark Kingdon, the owner of Kingdon Capital, then set up a fund able to trade Indian equities known as K Indian Opportunities Fund (KIOF). That fund created short positions in Adani stocks between January 10, 2023, and January 20, 2023, five days ahead of the Hindenburg report being published, according to the SEBI documents.

In its statement, Hindenburg said a Mauritius registered unit of Kotak Mahindra Bank created and oversaw an offshore fund that was used by its "investor partner" to bet against Adani's shares.

The positions were squared off in February, leading to gains of $22.25 million, SEBI alleged.

Hindenburg said it made $4.1 million in gross revenue through "gains related to Adani shorts from that investor relationship" and just $31,000 through its short position of Adani's U.S. bonds. It did not name the investor.

"Kotak Mahindra International Ltd. (KMIL) and KIOF unequivocally state that Hindenburg has never been a client of the firm," a KMIL spokesperson said.

Joins issue

U.S.-based short-seller Hindenburg terms SEBI show-cause notice to it as 'nonsense', an attempt to silence and intimidate

- SEBI says 6 entities including Hindenburg, Kingdon Capital and a Mauritus-based fund set up by Kotak Mahindra Bank violated rules
- Hindenburg made $4.1 mn gross revenue in 'gains related to Adani shorts' via an investor relationship
- Kotak backed fund asserts Hindenburg 'has never been a client'

Firms fret over Form 16 delays

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the looming July 31 deadline for filing I-T returns, some employers are struggling to issue Form 16 certificates to staff on processing delay and technical glitches in the I-T portal as well as challenges arising from new norms related to PAN-Aadhaar link, as per tax practitioners.

Companies file fourth-quarter returns for taxes withheld on behalf of staff by May 31, and individual staff's Form 16 reflecting income and tax deductions for a year, are subsequently generated on the IT department's TRACES portal.

"There have been some technical glitches on the TRACES portal over the last one month and as a result, it is seen the quarterly TDS returns filed are not timely processed, which is generally processed within two days," said chartered accountant Suresh Surana.

'Filing of returns hit'

Due to the processing delays, some deductors were not able to timely generate Form 16 and share them with the staff. While this could hamper I-T returns filing for affected taxpayers, a recent tax department mandate for employers to deduct tax at a higher rate if an employee's PAN is not linked with Aadhaar by May 31, with retrospective effect, is adding to the challenge.

Akhil Chandna, partner, Grant Thornton Bharat, pointed to numerous issues with the portal. He attributed delays in the processing of returns to high request volumes, a backlog, or technical issues on the TRACES portal.

"Recently, we have noticed the TRACES portal is taking more than 30-35 days to process returns. Further, in cases where the PANs are inoperative as they have not been linked with Aadhaar, the system is raising tax demand on the employer even in cases where salaries are below the threshold limit," Anita Basrur, partner, direct tax at Sudit K Parekh & Co. LLP, told *The Hindu*.

"This is putting tremendous pressure on deductors and employers as they are unable issue the certificates in a timely manner."

"In one of the cases, it took around two weeks for the e-TDS return to get processed due to technical issues on the portal, even after continuously following it up with the tax department," Mr. Chandna said. He also termed the inoperative PAN issue as a significant challenge for employers as it triggered a default in e-TDS returns.

Ms. Basrur pointed out the situation was trickier if a tax deductor needed to revise the withholding tax returns filed.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	79,441	-0.04
US Dollar	83.48	-0.04
Gold	74,250	2.62
Brent oil	86.78	0.66

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3153.20	-30.60
Adani Ports	1474.85	0.35
Apollo Hosp	6097.60	-42.90
Asian Paints	2925.60	-2.20
Axis Bank	1253.40	-8.50
Bajaj Auto	9401.25	-131.15
Bajaj Finserv	1579.75	-0.45
Bajaj Finance	7165.60	-111.15
Bharti Airtel	1418.95	-35.05
BPCL	304.40	-0.15
Britannia Ind	5401.65	-74.85
Cipla	1488.65	9.55
Coal India	479.10	4.30
Divis Lab	4571.45	-30.65
Dr Reddys Lab	6370.25	16.55
Eicher Motors	4625.75	-9.80
Grasim Ind	2742.95	16.55
HCL Tech	1480.80	11.95
HDFC Bank	1730.60	25.40
HDFC Life	589.80	-10.95
Hero MotoCorp	5567.10	-36.00
Hindalco	694.75	4.90
Hind Unilever	2485.15	-19.95
ICICI Bank	1190.60	-21.25
IndusInd Bank	1429.45	-27.45
Infosys	1621.05	30.25
ITC	425.50	-3.55
JSW Steel	938.25	-5.65
Kotak Bank	1769.60	-38.50
L&T	3626.50	99.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5474.00	26.50
M&M	2865.15	-10.70
Maruti Suzuki	12042.60	-66.05
NestleIndia	2544.45	-23.65
NTPC	370.40	0.65
ONGC	274.85	1.90
PowerGrid Corp	330.80	1.20
Reliance Ind	3130.35	10.05
SBI Life	1494.90	-6.95
State Bank	826.15	-15.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2824.90	-99.35
Sun Pharma	1524.05	3.95
TataConsumerProduct	1105.00	10.45
Tata Motors	981.30	-20.75
Tata Steel	174.54	0.47
TCS	4017.40	39.20
Tech Mahindra	1472.15	0.05
Titan	3399.65	-31.80
UltraTech Cement	11853.95	-50.70
Wipro	538.20	10.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 02

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.31	83.63
Euro	89.27	89.62
British Pound	105.26	105.67
Japanese Yen (100)	51.53	51.73
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.5
Swiss Franc	92.14	92.51
Singapore Dollar	61.31	61.56
Canadian Dollar	60.67	60.9
Malaysian Ringitt	17.64	17.72
Australian Dollar	55.43	55.64

Source:Indian Bank

RBI proposes rationalising norms on EXIM deals

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The RBI on Tuesday proposed rationalising regulations that cover export and import transactions to promote ease of doing business and empower banks to provide more efficient service to their foreign exchange customers.

The central bank has issued 'Regulation of Foreign Trade under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 - Draft Regulations and Directions' .

As per the draft, every exporter should furnish to the specified authority a declaration specifying the amount representing the full export value of the goods or services.

Stock broking firms tumble on SEBI order

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Shares of stock-broking firms slid on Tuesday, a day after markets regulator SEBI directed stock exchanges and market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) to implement a uniform and equal charge structure for all members rather than varying charges based on their volume or activity.

At the close of trade, the stock of Angel One tanked 8.72%, Geojit Financial Services 6.83%, Motilal Oswal Financial Services 4.19%, SMC Global Securities 2.81%, Dolat Algotech 2.28% and 5paisa Capital 0.05% on the BSE.

The regulator instructed stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories constituted as MIIs to ensure that any charges recovered from the end client are 'True to Label'.

It means if a certain charge is levied on the end client by members – stock brokers, depository participants, clearing members – it should be ensured by MIIs the same amount is received by them. SEBI has asked MIIs to comply with the directive while designing processes for charges levied on their members.

Murugappa firm signs water-devices pact with Jiva

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Murugappa Water Technology and Solutions (MWTS) has signed a MoU with Jiva Water to integrate Jiva Water Devices into its solutions portfolio to offer benefits of quality water.

"By incorporating Jiva Water Devices into our solutions, we will significantly enhance water quality at our customer/end-use applications," MWTS Chief Executive Jayateerth Nadgir," said in a statement.

"Jiva Water devices cater to consumer, industrial and agricultural segments. The product capacities are based on application and usage," said Co-founder Srinivasan Vitoba.

'Ashok Leyland ready to offer full suite of clean energy vehicles'

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Dheeraj Hinduja

Commercial vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland Ltd. is fully geared up to offer clean energy options beyond electric propulsion, said Executive Chairman Dheeraj Hinduja.

"The CNG and LNG trucks and buses are already operational, initiatives in methanol as a new energy fuel is well underway, and the prototype green hydrogen trucks have been deployed in actual operating conditions," he said in the chairman's message to shareholders.

ALL is future-ready to offer a full suite of clean energy vehicles, he said.

Talking about green mobility, he said the EV sector was expected to be buoyant with supportive governmental measures and ALL was poised to take advantage of the consequent growth momentum.

'Cut input tariffs on electronic production'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA), which represents domestic electronics manufacturers, called for a reduction of import duties as a key Union budget demand.

"With sustained increase in production, India has entered a phase when the growth of the mobile-phone sector depends not on domestic demand but on demand in the global market," the ICEA said in a report prepared for the Finance Ministry.

Pankaj Mohindroo, the ICEA's President, argued against the relatively high tariffs India imposed on manufacturing inputs – China and Vietnam's tariffs apply on fewer components and are of lower rates – saying domestic component makers were raising prices to just below net prices of inputs to take advantage of the situation.

Since much of the fresh production of phones in India is being exported, duties should be slashed to promote competitiveness.

Government of Karnataka
(Public Works Department)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION BIDAR

No.: EE/PWD//DIVN/BDR/JE-5/2024-25/691 Date : 1-7-2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, PWD Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the WORK_INDENT NO. **PWD/2023-24/BD/RD/OW//WORK_INDENT (General 05) 7118/call-2, 7711/call-2, 7141/call-2, 10755/call-2, 9776/call-2, (SC Reserve 02) 7123/call-2 and 10214/call-2. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum Rs. 30.00 Lakhs & Maximum Rs. 109.49 Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 01.07.2024.** Tenders must be submitted through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before **16:30 hours** on **08.07.2024.** Further any other information can be seen from the e-procurement portal or can be had from the undersigned.

NOTE : Turn over certificate without UDI Number will not be considered.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
PWD Division Bidar

KANNADA BOOK AUTHORITY
Kannada Bhavana, 1st Floor, J.C. Road,
Bengaluru-560 002. Phone : 080-22107704, 22484516
Website: https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in
e-mail : https://kannadappradhikara@gmail.com

No: ಕಮುಪ್ರಾ/10/ಕೇ.ಪು.ಟೆಂ/2023–24 Date: 01.07.2024

Short Term Tender Notification

Kannada Books Authority is inviting Short Term E-Tender for Printing of 45 Kananda Books of different titles through e-Procurement portal. Approximate value of tender: **Rs.59,00,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs).** Short term E-Tenders may be uploaded from **02.07.2024 to 18.07.2024.**Tender documents and other details are available in the website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further details contact: The Administrative Officer, Kannada Book Authority, Kananda Bhavana, 1st Floor, J.C.Road, Bengalore-560 002. Phone No: 080-22484516/22107704 and https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Administrative Officer
Kannada Book Authority.

DIPR/CP/716/MAA/24-25

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/EE-1/Tender- 10/2024-25 Date: 01.07.2024

SHORTERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Maintenance of JJ Bhavan, Providing facility for Sports to MDRS Schools in Kalburgi, Dakshina Kannada, Raichur, Mysore Districts /Repair work in Chikkaballapura Districts of KREIS (Tender Indent No.328, 142/call-2,146/ call-2, 147/call-2 151/call-2 and 255)** through e-Portal vide website: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 01.07.2024.** The last date for receipt of tender is **15.07.2024.** The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published indailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer-1**
KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/714/2024-25

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KANAKAPURA
Ramanagara (District) - 562 117.
Phone : 080-2752 2428. E-mail : kanakapura_tmc@yahoo.co.in
Website : www.kanakapuratown.mrc.gov.in

No. : K.C.M.C./T.S-1/S.B.M.-1/CR/Ten-02/2024-25 Date : 01-07-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-procurement portal Only)

The Municipal Commissioner, CMC, Kanakapura invites tenders in Two Cover System using KW-3 Document from Eligible contractors for the below work under **Swacha Bharath Mission (Urban) 1.0 saving grant.**

Indent No. : DMA/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT18943, Estimated Amount Rs. 55.00 Lakh Contractors can Download and Submit the Tenders through e-procurement portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Calendar of Events Date of Enquire : Date : 01-07-2024, 10.00 a.m. to 15-07-2024, 17.30 p.m. Hrs, Pre Bid Meeting Date : 08-07-2024, 11.00 a.m. Hrs, Last Date of Submission of Tenders Date : 16-07-2024 upto 17.30 p.m. Hrs, Date of Technical Bid Opening Date : 18-07-2024 at 11.00 a.m. hrs, Financial Bid Opening Date : 22-07-2024 at 11.00 a.m. Hrs.

Any corrigendum or extension of time will be published in e-procurement portal only, not in any news papers.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner,
CMC, Kanakapura.

DIPR/Ramanagar/129/Manipal/2024-25

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests,
BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor,
Annex-3 Building, N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No. DCF/TENDER/04/2024-25 Date: 02.07.2024

Tender Notification
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP, Bengaluru invites works package tenders under (NCAP "Development of Mini Forest in the concept of MIYAWAKI Forest in the Open spaces in BBMP Limits") from Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with Class-1 CPWD/KPWD/FOREST/Railways/MES/ National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimate Amount (in Lakhs)	EMD (in Lakhs)
1.	Development of Mini Forest in the concept of MIYAWAKI Forest in BBMP Limits Bommanahalli Zone.	200.00	2.00
2.	Development of Mini Forest in the concept of MIYAWAKI Forest in BBMP Limits Yelahanka Zone, Avalahalli Lake.	200.00	
	Total Tender Estimate Amount	400.00	

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Commencement for Download of Document from Kpp Portal : **08.07.2024 onwards. (2)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Kpp Portal : **12.07.2024 up to 5:00 p.m. (3)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting and Address for Communication : **12.07.2024 at 5:00 p.m.** at Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building, N. R. Square, Bengaluru-02, e-mail: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com. **(4)** Last Date and Time for uploading of tenders in Kpp Portal: **22.07.2024 up to 5:00 p.m. (5)** Date and Time for online opening of tender : **23.07.2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forest, N.R. Square, BBMP.

THE HAGUE

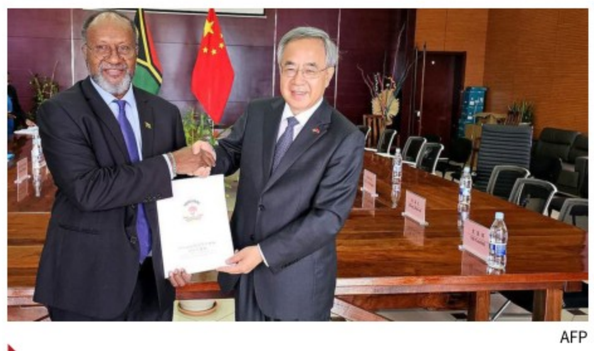
New Dutch PM sworn in 7 months after far-right party won elections

AP

In Dick Schoof, the Netherlands has a different PM for the first time in 14 years as he swore in on Tuesday, more than seven months after elections dominated by a far-right, anti-Islam party. The anti-immigration party of Geert Wilders won the maximum seats in elections last year but it took 223 days to form a government. AP

SYDNEY

China builds new presidential palace in Pacific's Vanuatu

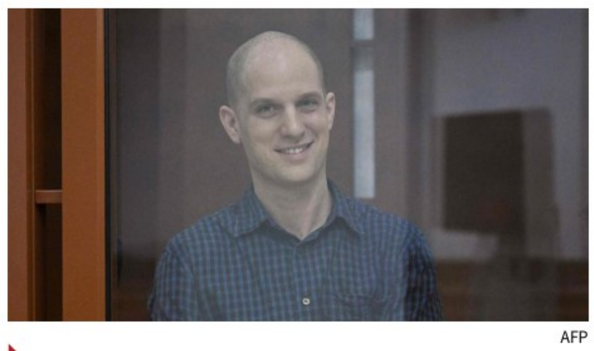


AFP

The government of cash-strapped Vanuatu will soon settle into a suite of new buildings funded by China, a move likely to reignite concerns about Beijing's reach in the South Pacific nation. At an official handover ceremony, Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlot Salwai announced the opening of the new presidential palace. AFP

GENEVA

Russia violated international law by imprisoning *WSJ* reporter: UN



AFP

UN human rights experts say Russia violated international law by imprisoning *Wall Street Journal* reporter Evan Gershkovich and should release him "immediately." The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said there was a "striking lack of any factual or legal substantiation" for spying charges levelled against Gershkovich. AP

NEW YORK

Former New York Mayor Giuliani disbarred for 2020 election lies

REUTERS

Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani was disbarred on Tuesday for repeatedly making false statements about the 2020 presidential election lost by Donald Trump. The sanction of the 80-year-old Giuliani, who led Trump's legal efforts to overturn his election defeat, was handed down by a state appeals court in New York. AFP

Nepali Congress, CPN-UML arrive at agreement to oust Prachanda as PM

Deuba's NC has 89 seats, while Oli's CPN-UML has 78, totalling 167 which exceeds the majority mark of 138 in the Lower House; Prachanda vows not to quit, will face vote of confidence instead, marking his fourth one since coming to power

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Embattled Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has decided not to resign from the post despite an agreement reached between the country's largest parties – Nepali Congress and CPN-UML – to form a new coalition government.

In a meeting of the office-bearers of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre), held in Baluwatar, Prachanda said he would rather face a vote of confidence in parliament than resign from the post, party secretary Ganesh Shah said.

Musical chair: NC leader Sher Bahadur Deuba, centre, talks to CPN-UML's K.P. Sharma Oli in Kathmandu on Tuesday. AFP

Prachanda, 69, a former guerilla leader, has won four votes of confidence in parliament during his year-and-a-half term.

The Nepali Congress, the largest party in the 275-member House of Representatives, has 89 seats at present, while the CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is sufficient for a majority of 138 seats in the Lower House. Mr. Prachanda's Maoist party has 32 seats.

Rotating PM

According to the agreement, finalised between Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman K.P. Sharma Oli, the leaders will share the Prime Ministerial position on a rotation basis for the rest of the term of Parliament.

Nepal has had 13 governments in the last 16 years, indicating the fragile nature of the Himalayan nation's political system.

Mr. Oli and Mr. Deuba agreed to form a new government, amend the Constitution, and work out a power-sharing formula, which they reportedly shared with a few confidants, media reports said.

The Ministers belonging to the CPN-UML in the Prachanda-led Cabinet are likely to resign en-masse, sources close to the CPN-UML said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Ravi Lamichhane accused the Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML of forming the new alliance after the Prachanda-led coalition government started opening the files of corruption cases involving political leaders.

Beijing, Manila hold talks after maritime stand-off

Associated Press
MANILA

China and the Philippines held a crucial meeting on Tuesday to ease escalating tensions following their worst confrontation in the disputed South China Sea that sparked fears of a wider conflict that could involve Manila's ally, the U.S.

There was no mention of any major agreement to try to prevent a repeat of the chaotic June 17 clash at Second Thomas Shoal that caused injuries to Filipino navy personnel and damaged two military boats.

Differences remain

The Chinese and Philippine delegations "affirmed their commitment to de-escalate tensions without prejudice to their respective positions," the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said in a statement late on Tuesday. "There was substantial progress on developing measures to manage the situation at sea, but significant differences remain."

Cooling off: Theresa Lazaro and Chen Xiaodong shake hands during their South China Sea meeting in Manila. AFP

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Theresa Lazaro told her Chinese counterpart, Vice Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong, "that the Philippines will be relentless in protecting its interests and upholding its sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction" in the South China Sea.

An agreement was signed to improve communications during emergencies at sea and both sides agreed to continue talks on enhancing ties between their coast guards but no details were provided.

Prosecutors in Trump hush money case not opposed to delaying his sentencing

Associated Press
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

Manhattan prosecutors said on Tuesday they would not oppose former U.S. President Donald Trump's request to delay the sentencing in his hush money trial as he seeks to have the conviction overturned following a Supreme Court ruling that granted broad immunity protections to Presidents.

Two-week wait

In a letter filed with the New York court, prosecutors with Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office said they would be open to a two-week delay in the July 11 sentencing in order to file a response to Mr. Trump. "Although we believe defendant's arguments to be without merit, we do not oppose his request" to delay the sentencing pending determination of the motion, the prosecutors wrote.

Donald Trump

The letter came one day after Mr. Trump's attorney requested the judge delay the sentencing as he weighs the high court's decision and how it could influence the New York case.

Trump's argument

The lawyers argue that the Supreme Court's decision confirmed a position the defence raised earlier in the case that prosecutors should have been precluded from introducing some evidence the Trump team said constituted official presidential acts, according to the letter.

If a delay is indeed granted, it would push a sentencing decision past the Republican National Convention, which will kick off in Milwaukee on July 15.

That means that Mr. Trump, now the presumptive GOP nominee, could become the Republican presidential candidate while it remains unknown what sentence he will face.

Mr. Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Israel pounds Gaza following evacuation order which will affect 2.5 lakh residents

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Israeli forces carried out deadly strikes on Tuesday on southern Gaza and battled militants after issuing an evacuation order which a UN agency said would impact 2,50,000 Palestinians.

Witnesses reported intense bombing and shelling around Khan Younis, southern Gaza's main city, from which Israeli troops withdrew in early April after a devastating months-long battle.

A hospital source in the city said shelling killed eight persons and wounded more than 30 others.

Dystopian land: Displaced Palestinians from eastern areas of Khan Younis arrive in the main city on Tuesday. AFP

The bombardment came after a rocket barrage at southern Israel on Monday morning claimed by the militant group Islamic Jihad, which has fought alongside Hamas.

This was followed by an order to evacuate most areas east of Khan Younis and in Rafah along the borders with Israel and Egypt.

The UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees estimated on Tuesday that a quarter of a million people had been impacted since Israel's Army issued a new evacuation order for parts of southern Gaza a day earlier.

The agency "estimates that around 2,50,000 people have been impacted by these orders", UNRWA spokeswoman Louise Wateridge said, adding: "We expect these numbers to grow".

Sport

USA crashes out in group phase after losing to Uruguay

COPA AMERICA

Agence France-Presse
KANSAS CITY

The United States crashed out of the Copa America on Monday after a 0-1 defeat to Uruguay, as Panama sealed its place in the quarterfinals with a 3-1 win over Bolivia.

The tournament host suffered an upset 1-2 defeat to Panama last week and went into Monday's final Group C game at the Arrowhead Stadium here needing to match or better Panama's result against Bolivia to advance.

But US coach Gregg Berhalter's side never looked like doing enough to seriously threaten a well-drilled Uruguay which advances to the last eight as group winner.

Hopes of a great escape for Berhalter's men faded inside the first 30 minutes as news filtered through that Panama had taken a 1-0 lead against Bolivia in Orlando.

US hopes were revived early in the second half after Bolivia equalised, leaving the host on course for qualification, provided it continued to hold Uruguay.

Optimism punctured

Yet the US optimism was punctured just moments later when Uruguay took the lead in controversial circumstances through Mathias Olivera on 66 minutes.

Ronald Araujo's powerful header from Nicolas de la Cruz's free-kick was parried away by US goalkeeper Matt Turner, but only into the path of Olivera, who tucked away the rebound.

Replays appeared to show that Olivera was offside when Araujo first made contact with the ball, but despite a lengthy VAR review, Peruvian referee Kevin Ortega ruled that the goal should stand.

The mathematics of qualification looked even more bleak for the US after news that Panama had scored again through Eduardo Guerrero to regain the lead at 2-1, and the final nail in the coffin came when Cesar Yanis added a third for Panama in stoppage time.

The results:
Bolivia 1 (Miranda 69) lost to Panama 3 (Fajardo 22, Guerrero 79, Yanis 90+1); USA 0 lost to Uruguay 1 (Olivera 66).

Happy faces: Olivera, centre, celebrates with teammates after scoring Uruguay's winner against USA. AP

Jyothi set to be first Indian 100m hurdler in the Olympics

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Jyothi Yarraji is set to become the first Indian 100m hurdler to compete in the Olympics while shot putter Abha Khatua made a surprise cut through world rankings for Paris Games.

World Athletics (WA) on Tuesday published the list of those who made the cut through direct qualification by breaching entry standard as well as through world ranking quota.

It will, however, be up to the AFI to select among those who made the grade through world rankings.

The NOCs must inform WA of their intention to decline a quota by July 4. From July 4-6, WA will reallocate the declined quota places to the next best ranked athlete in the same event and the final list will be published on July 7.

Jyothi. RITU RAJ KONWAR

High jumper Sarvesh Anil Kushare also made the grade.

MIDFIELD MAESTRO

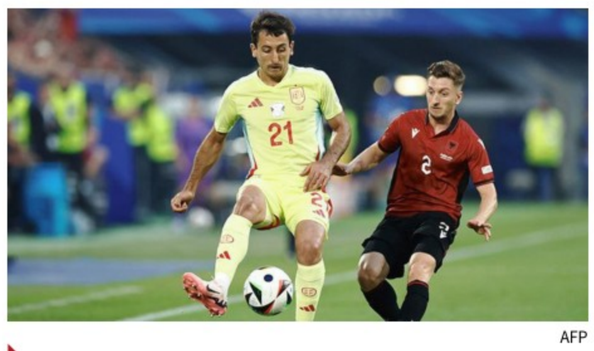
Kroos has made us stronger and can help us beat Spain: Sane

AFP

Leroy Sane said Germany could "hurt" Spain in the Euro 2024 quarterfinal thanks to the impressive return of midfielder Toni Kroos. "Before we weren't always stable enough. Kroos took away that weakness with the calmness he brings with him. Now things are going well and we're happy he's come back and made us stronger."

BELIEF

Oyarzabal says nobody called Spain favourites before Euro 2024

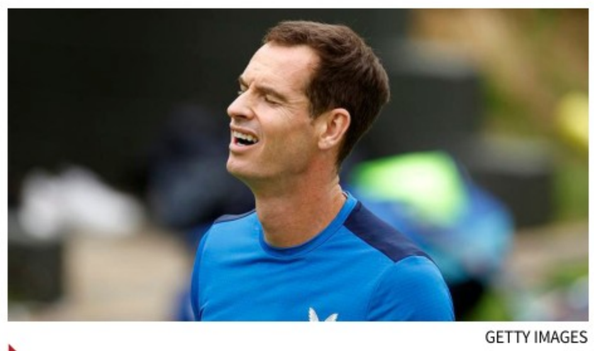


AFP

Spain forward Mikel Oyarzabal said nobody considered *La Roja* favourites before Euro 2024 but he is convinced the team can defeat host Germany in the quarterfinals. "They say it now, but three weeks ago nobody said that (we were favourites) about us," Real Sociedad's Oyarzabal said.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Murray withdraws from singles, just over a week after back surgery



GETTY IMAGES

Two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray will play only doubles at his last appearance at the All England Club following his withdrawal from singles on Tuesday. He pulled out of the singles competition hours before he was supposed to play Tomas Machac. Murray had surgery on June 22 to remove a cyst from his spinal cord.

INSPIRING CHANGE

Attenborough's colourful impact on Wimbledon and tennis: yellow balls

AFP

Naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough's visit to Wimbledon provided a vivid reminder of his impact on the sport: yellow balls. Tennis balls were historically either black or white. Attenborough, who worked for the BBC in the '60s when it was transitioning to colour, was one of the people who inspired the switch for better visibility.

Lively Dutch in quarters for first time in 16 years

Gakpo and Malen get on the scoresheet; goalkeeper Costa's heroics in the penalty shootout rescues Portugal against a dogged Slovenia; Ronaldo misses from the spot during extra-time

Saviour: Portugal shot-stopper Costa blocks Balkovec's effort for Slovenia. REUTERS

Agencies
MUNICH

Netherlands' Cody Gakpo scored his third goal of the European Championship and Donyell Malen added two more late on as the Dutch burst back into form with a lively display to defeat Romania 3-0 in their last-16 fixture on Tuesday.

The team had been lambasted by media and fans for a poor defensive display in the final group game, a 2-3 loss to Austria, but was more composed and in control as it reached the Euro quarterfinals for the first time since 2008.

It took the lead after 20 minutes when Gakpo drilled a low angled shot home at goalkeeper Florin Nita's near post before Malan's late double.

The Netherlands had two thirds of possession and almost five times more chances in the game to underline its superiority as Virgil van Dijk struck the post with a header and Gakpo had a second effort ruled out for offside.

Ronald Koeman's side will need to improve its effectiveness in front of goal should it wish to emulate its manager, who was a player for the Dutch when they won the 1988 Euros.

Prior to the game, Netherlands' captain Virgil van Dijk said his side lacked energy and the "will to win" in the loss to Austria.

Dramatic win

Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa saved three Slovenia penalties to earn his side a 3-0 shoot-out victory after Cristiano Ronaldo redeemed himself from the spot in a dramatic last 16 clash on Monday.

Portugal forward Ronaldo broke down in tears after missing a penalty in the first period of extra-time in the goalless tie in Frankfurt. But he recovered to convert in the shoot-out as Portugal scraped through to set up a blockbuster clash with France in the quarter-finals.

Slovenia battled valiantly to keep Portugal at bay, with Jan Oblak making a stunning save to keep out Ronaldo's penalty after Diogo Jota was fouled.

However, Ronaldo, Bruno Fernandes and Bernardo Silva all scored in the shoot-out and Slovenia's trio missed, sending the Selecao through in heartstopping fashion.

Portugal coach Roberto Martinez reverted to a more familiar 4-3-3 system after his side was embarrassed by debutant Georgia in their last group game when he deployed three at the back.

The Euro 2016 winner dominated the ball and created its first chance after 12 minutes when Silva's inviting cross just evaded Ronaldo and Fernandes could not turn home at the far post.

Slovenia, playing in its first ever knock-out match at a major competition, maintained its defensive shape well and limited Portugal's opportunities.

The results:

Romania 0 lost to Netherlands 3 (Gakpo 20, Malen 83, 90+3).

Portugal 0 drew with Slovenia 0 (aet, Portugal won 3-0 on penalties).

Defending champ Vondrousova and Rublev crash out; Djokovic cruises

WIMBLEDON

Agence France Presse
LONDON

Marketa Vondrousova on Tuesday became the first defending women's Wimbledon champion to lose in the first round for 30 years.

The Czech sixth seed went down 6-4, 6-2 to Spain's unheralded Jessica Bouzas Maneiro in 66 minutes.

Vondrousova is only the second defending champion to lose in the first round at the All England Club in the Open Era.

The only other time it has happened was 30 years ago, when Lori McNeil defeated three-time defending champion Steffi Graf in the 1994 opening round.

Novak Djokovic wore a gray sleeve on his surgically repaired right knee while winning his first-round match without too much of a test.

Playing his first match since tearing the meniscus in his knee at the French Open on June 3, Djokovic never faced a break point along the way to a 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 victory over qualifier Vit Kopriva in under two hours on Centre Court.

Andrey Rublev crashed out at the first hurdle, going down in four sets to Argentina's Francisco Comesana.

The Russian sixth seed battled back after losing the first set but lost momentum early in the third and went down to a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (5) defeat.

Rublev, who reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals last year, struggled for consistency on his serve and was broken four times in the match by his opponent, ranked 122nd in the World.

The 26-year-old, who smashed his racquet repeatedly against his knee in frustration in the third set, is the highest-seeded men's player to exit the Championships so far.

World No. 83 Bouzas Maneiro, playing in only the third Grand Slam main draw of her career, broke her opponent five times in the match under the roof on Centre Court.

Until Tuesday, she had never defeated a top-40 player, while her only other grass-court match this year was a first-round loss in a low-key event in Italy.

2022 champion

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek stretched her winning streak to 20 matches with a comfortable 6-3, 6-4 victory over Sofia Kenin.

Elena Rybakina cantered past Romania's Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-3, 6-1, turning the game on its head with a run of nine straight games.

Women's fifth seed Jessica Pegula raced through her match against US compatriot Ashlyn Krueger in 49 minutes, losing just two games.

Nagal falls

India's top singles player Sumit Nagal committed 44 unforced errors as he went down in four sets to Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia.

Making his maiden appearance in the men's singles main draw, Nagal toiled hard for two hours 38 minutes and even managed to take a set off World No. 53 Kecmanovic before conceding a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 defeat.

Big blow: Vondrousova is only the second defending champion to lose in the first round at the All England Club in the Open Era. GETTY IMAGES

TOP RESULTS

First round:
Men: 15-Rune (Den) bt Soon Woo (Kor) 6-1, 6-4, 6; 11-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Daniel (Jpn) 7-6(5), 6-4, 7-5.
30-Etcheverry (Arg) bt Nardi (Ita) 6-1, 6-4, 6-2; Nishioka (Jpn) bt Borges (Por) 6-2, 7-6(6), 2-6, 6-3; 7-Hurkacz (Pol) bt Albot (Mol) 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4; 9-de Minaur (Aus) bt Duckworth (Aus) 7-6(1), 7-6(3), 7-6(4); 25-Musetti (Ita) bt Lestienne (Fra) 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-2, 6-2; 4-Zverev (Ger) bt Carballes Baena (Esp) 6-2, 6-4, 6-2; Perricard (Fra) bt 20-Korda (USA) 7-6(5), 6-7(4), 7-6(6), 6-7(4), 6-3; 2-Djokovic (Srb) bt Kopriva (Cze) 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; Comesana (Arg) bt 6-Rublev (Rus) 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 7-6(5).
Sonego (Ita) bt 31-Navone (Arg) 6-4, 7-6(2), 6-4; 27-Griekspoor (Ned) bt Elahi Galan (Col) 7-6(3), 6-3, 6-4; 12-Paul (USA) bt Martinez (Esp) 6-2, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3; 1-Sinner (Ita) bt Hanfmann (Ger) 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Kecmanovic (Srb) bt Nagal (Ind) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Women: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt Kenin (USA) 6-3, 6-4; 32-Boulter (GBr) bt Maria (Ger) 7-6(6), 7-5;
30-Fernandez (Can) bt Bronzetti (Ita) 6-4, 6-3; Caroline Garcia (23), France, def. Anna Blinkova, Russia, 6-4, 7-5.
5-Pegula (USA) bt Krueger (USA) 6-2, 6-0; 4-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Ruse (Rou) 6-3, 6-1; Bouzas Maneiro (Esp) bt 6-Vondrousova (Cze) 6-4, 6-2; 17-Kalinskaya (Rus) bt Udvardy (Hun) 6-3, 6-2;
15-Samsonova (Rus) bt Masarova (Esp) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; 13-Ostapenko (Lat) bt Tomljanovic (Aus) 6-1, 6-2.
19-Navarro (USA) bt Wang (Chn) 6-0, 6-2; 2-Gauff (USA) bt Dolehide (USA) 6-1, 6-2; Kartal (GBr) 29-Cirstea (Rou) 3-6, 6-2, 6-0; Badosa (Esp) bt Muchova (Cze) 6-3, 6-2; 26-Noskova (Cze) bt Errani (Ita) 7-6(3), 6-1; Fruhvirtova (Cze) bt 24-Mirra Andreeva (Rus) 1-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Fallen seeds
Men: 6-Rublev; 20-Korda
Women: 6-Vondrousova

South Africa's resilience underlined why a one-Test series is not the ideal yardstick

SA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

The one-off Test between India and South Africa that concluded here on Monday provided another reason for the women's game to have more international Tests.

The match had everything one would want from a hard-fought multi-day game: individual brilliance, gritty performances, and challenging conditions.

On the opening day, India's Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana starred with the bat, slamming a double century and a century, respectively, to set the tone for the game.

Later, off-spinner Sneh Rana weaved her magic to claim her – eventually match-winning – maiden ten-wicket haul (ten for 188). That included her career-best figures of eight for 77 in the first innings, where she took five of the last six wickets on the third morning.

Though the headline would record India's comprehensive 10-wicket win, the story is more complex. For starters, the women don't play many multi-day games at the domestic level. While India was relatively better prepared, having revived the zonal multi-day tournament earlier this year, the Proteas do not play any such games back home.

So once India made a record 603 for six decl. in the first essay, the general feeling was when and not if the home team would win and if the game would last four days.

But the South Africans held their own on the second day before eventually collapsing, conceding a 337-run lead the next day.

Heads held high: Wolvaardt & Co. can be proud of their showing against a dominant India. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Asked to follow-on, not many would have expected the visitor to overhaul the deficit.

However, skipper Laura Wolvaardt and Sune Luus did not throw in the towel, scoring valiant centuries. The South Africans had a method to play on the backfoot as the slow nature of the surface allowed them the time to adjust to the turn, and they stuck to it.

Though a few batters got trapped in front when the ball kept low, they did not panic or deviate from the plans. Eventually, South Africa managed to get ahead by 36 runs and forced the game into the final session on the last day.

In elite sports, there are no moral victories; the record books only register wins and losses.

However, this fixture had something for everyone. India underscored its recent dominance in Tests, marking the side's third win, seven months after triumphing over England and Australia last year. South Africa, meanwhile, came out with heads held high, showing why boards worldwide should invest in the longer format.

Pogacar wins stage four, takes back yellow jersey

TOUR DE FRANCE

Associated Press
VALLOIRE

Tadej Pogacar attacked near the top of the first big mountain pass of the Tour de France and extended his lead during the twisty, high-speed descent to take back the yellow jersey on Tuesday.

Two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard did his best to limit the damage but finished 37 seconds behind on stage four. The race crossed back into France after the opening stages in Italy.

The climb to the 2,642m Col du Galibier met expectations as the Tour's first decisive point. Previous leader Richard Carapaz was dropped on the Galibier.

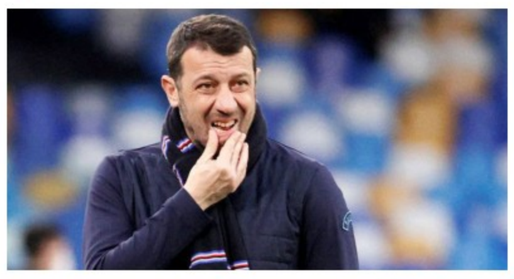
With his UAE Team Emirates squad setting a fast pace up the climb, only Vingegaard and a handful of other riders were able to keep up toward the top of the Galibier.

Then Pogacar attacked with 800m to go and created about a 10-second advantage over Vingegaard at the summit. There was about 20 kilometres of descending to the finish and Pogacar extended his lead over the more cautious Vingegaard, who suffered a high-speed crash in April and broke his collarbone and ribs and had a collapsed lung.

Pogacar, who also wore yellow after Stage 2, is aiming for the rare Giro d'Italia-Tour double after dominating the Italian Grand Tour in May. He's also aiming for his third Tour title after wins in 2020 and 2021. He was runner-up to Vingegaard the last two years.

Pushing ahead: Tadej Pogacar leads a pack of riders in the Galibier ascent during the fourth stage. AFP

INBRIEF



Empoli becomes 13th Serie A club to change coach

Empoli became the 13th Serie A club to change coaches for the new season after it announced the arrival of Roberto D'Aversa as the boss on Tuesday. Italian D'Aversa returns to manage Empoli, which finished 17th out of 20 last season, after being sacked by Lecce in March for headbutting an opposition player. The 48-year-old has also had spells in charge of Sampdoria and Parma having come through AC Milan's youth academy as a player.

Frankfurt ropes in 18-year-old forward Can Uzun

Eintracht Frankfurt has signed 18-year-old Turkiye forward Can Uzun on a five-year contract. Uzun, who was born and raised in Germany, scored 19 goals in 32 games for second-division Nuremberg last season. "Can Uzun is one of the biggest talents in Germany," Frankfurt board member for sport Markus Krosche said in a statement.

Chelsea signs Leicester midfielder Dewsbury-Hall

Chelsea has signed Leicester midfielder Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday, for a reported fee of £30 million. The 25-year-old has agreed a six-year contract at Stamford Bridge and his move means he will be reunited with new Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca, after they worked together last season.

Gray goes to Tottenham as Rodon returns to Leeds

Tottenham has completed the signing of Leeds midfielder Archie Gray *(in pic.)*, in a player-plus-cash deal which sees Joe Rodon return to Elland Road, it was announced on Tuesday. No fee has been disclosed, but British media reported 18-year-old Gray had signed in a deal worth £25-30 million, with the added inducement of Rodon returning to Leeds.

Durand Cup to kick-off in Kolkata on July 27

Durand Cup, the domestic football season-opener, will be held from July 27 to August 31 across four venues with ISL, I-League and other invitational teams competing. The 133rd edition of Asia's oldest tournament will see 43 matches being played in a round-robin league-cum-knockout format, with the opener and the final scheduled at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) here. The 24 teams will be divided into six groups. Eight teams – group toppers and two best second-placed sides – will qualify for the knockouts. International outfits are expected to participate this year too, organisers said on Tuesday. Two new cities – Jamshedpur and Shillong – have been added as host venues.

LIVE TELECAST

Wimbledon: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards

Laxman-coached Indian team leaves for Zimbabwe

Sai Sudharsan, Jitesh and Rana named as replacements for players who were part of the T20 WC squad; skipper Gill to link up with the team in Harare directly from the USA

INDIA IN ZIMBABWE

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

A young-Indian cricket team under National Cricket Academy head V.V.S. Laxman left for Zimbabwe to play a five-match T20I series starting in Harare on July 6.

The team will be led by Shubman Gill while the likes of youngsters Riyan Parag and Abhishek Sharma have been rewarded for their exploits in the last IPL with maiden India call-ups.

Skipper Gill, who was on a break, will link up with the squad directly in Harare from the USA.

The BCCI took to *X* to post pictures of those who boarded the flight: Abhishek, Parag, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Tushar Deshpande and NCA head Laxman.

Five members of the squad – Shivam Dube, Sanju Samson, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh and Khaleel Ahmed – were either part of the T20 World Cup-winning team or were travelling reserves are stranded in Barbados due to hurricane Beryl. They will join the squad later.

Big opportunity: Abhishek and Jitesh will look to make most of the chance that has come their way. Right: NCA head Laxman on board the flight to Harare. X@BCCI

The trio of Sai Sudharsan, Jitesh Sharma and Harshit Rana was on Tuesday named as replacements for Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube and Yashasvi Jaiswal in the Indian squad for the first two matches of the T20 International series against Zimbabwe.

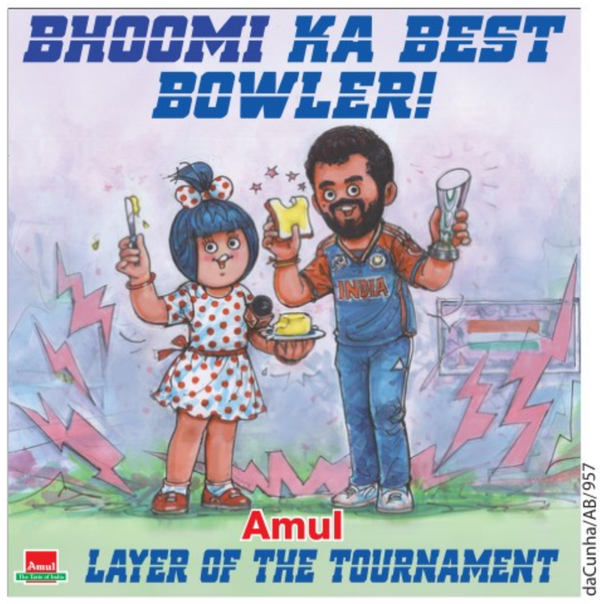
Pacer Khaleel Ahmed and batter Rinku Singh, travelling reserves for the T20 World Cup, are also currently in Barbados.

The BCCI has not named replacements for the duo even though they are in the squad for Zimbabwe series.

Sai Sudharsan is currently playing county cricket for Surrey in London. He is expected to leave for Harare immediately.

The India squad for first and second T20Is:
Shubman Gill (Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tushar Deshpande, Sai Sudharsan, Jitesh Sharma (wk), and Harshit Rana.

The schedule:
July 6, 7, 10, 13 and 14.
All matches at 4.30 p.m. IST.



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AIFF confirms Neroca and TRAU's relegation from the I-League

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Tuesday confirmed the relegation of Neroca FC and TRAU FC from the I-League after the two Manipur clubs finished at the bottom of the 2023-24 season.

The AIFF took the decision despite Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's request earlier to exempt the two Imphal-based clubs from relegation.

"The All India Football Federation has decided to impose relegation in the I-League 2023-24 as per the rules and regulations," the AIFF said in a release.

"In the 13-team competition, Neroca FC (14 points) and TRAU FC (13 points) finished as the two bottom teams and have been relegated. Mohammedan Sporting Club (52 points) emerged the champion."

In May, the I-League Committee had recommended the relegation of Neroca and TRAU FC from the I-League as per their results.

The two clubs had requested to shift their respective away matches against Aizawl FC to a neutral venue. Later, they refused to travel to Aizawl to play their away matches in April, leading to the AIFF cancelling the two games.

India are a superb team, they don't need artificial aid

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Perhaps it is a continuum – and the cricket team is merely a part of it. Is a sense of insecurity built into our system? A wariness about the few and the less powerful turning the tables on the many and the powerful?

India, one of two finest all-format teams were in all three finals in the space of a year, losing two of them to the other top team, Australia.

Yet the Board of Control for Cricket in India, the most powerful body in the game, feels it necessary to provide artificial aid.

Rohit Sharma and his fine band of men deserve better than this; they are good enough to win without the BCCI's embarrassing help.

In the 50-over World Cup at home, the BCCI sailed close to the wind by changing the pitch ahead of the semifinal without the knowledge of the International Cricket Council, whose tournament it is. It was a "used surface" instead of a fresh one, as the New Zealand captain pointed out.

No mollycoddling

This was unnecessary. India don't need to be mollycoddled so politicians can pump themselves up with self-importance and bask in their victory.

In the last four World Cups (T20 and 50-over), India's final games in the league have been against Namibia, Zimbabwe, Netherlands and Canada. Coincidence? Perhaps. But mighty useful if they needed to bolster their Net Run Rate.

That Pakistan must be in India's group in all world tournaments, thus ensuring at least one meeting between the neighbours has become a given.

It pleases television at a time when bilateral series between the two are off the table; yet it says something for the integrity of the draw.

India's selectors have come in for much praise for picking three spinners, all of whom played in the eleven in the West Indies once the T20 World Cup moved there.

India were the only team which knew before they left the country where they would be playing the semifinal if they qualified, and chose their side accordingly.

The match was scheduled to start at 10.30 a.m. (for television back home) and there was no reserve day unlike at the first semifinal in Barbados.

It was pointed out that it rains on an average 23 days in June in Guyana – and had the match been washed out, India would have qualified for the final because they topped their group.

Most impressive

India were by far the most impressive team in the tournament; they didn't need outside (or in this case, inside) assistance. In Jasprit Bumrah they had possibly the finest fast bowler to have played the white-ball game.

Rohit is both an outstanding batter and a sound captain. Fortune, if not the national boards, favour the brave.

Rising to the occasion

Rohit might have delayed bringing on Bumrah in the final, but the great man delivered when he did come on, and Hardik Pandya rose to the occasion.

Cricket matches must be won and lost on the field of play; sometimes the best teams lose, as happened in Ahmedabad with the 50-over World Cup when India failed at the final hurdle. That is the nature of sport. And the earlier the BCCI realises this, the more seriously will they be taken as a sporting and not a political body.

That the three over-35s in the Indian squad, each of whom has served the country magnificently, decided to call it a day after the T20 final was inevitable.

Virat Kohli finished his career with a strike rate similar to that of Chris Gayle, once known as the Bradman of the T20 game, and better than that of Brendon McCullum.

When he began his T20 career, his final 76 off 59 deliveries (strike rate: 129) might have been seen as a top innings at a fabulous strike rate.

Evolution

It is a measure of how far the format has come that today it is seen as a middling effort. He was at his best when he played his normal game; he might be the last of the greats in the format to do so.

The T20 team is in transition. The focus shifts to Zimbabwe where Shubman Gill leads a younger team. That is the future.

Hopefully, one where the BCCI feels more secure and shows greater confidence in its team.

Sai Sudharsan and Shaw fail to convert starts

Press Trust of India
LONDON

Sai Sudharsan and Prithvi Shaw failed to get big scores in their English county games for Surrey and Northamptonshire respectively.

In a home game at the Oval against Essex, Surrey scored 262 in its first essay with Sai Sudharsan coming in at No. 6 and making 14 off 47 balls with two boundaries.

In the game between Northamptonshire and Sussex, Shaw struck 13 boundaries across two innings –seven in a 22-ball-31 and another six in 37 off 41 balls, but failed to get a big score.

In the first innings, Sussex's second change medium pacer Fynn Hudson-Prentice got his wicket, caught by Jack Carson.

Shaw's score was the second highest in his team's 97 in a little over 20 overs.

Soha Sadiq enters the second round in Hillcrest

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

India's Soha Sadiq beat Erin McKenzie 6-3, 7-5 in the first round of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Hillcrest, South Africa, on Tuesday.

The results: First round:
$15,000 ITF men, Hillcrest, South Africa: Aryan Shah bt Luca Bluett (GBR) 6-4, 6-3; Connor Van Schalkwyk (Nam) bt Parth Aggarwal 7-6(2), 6-3.

$15,000 ITF men, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan: Egor Agafonov & Sergey Fomin (Uzb) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha & Siddharth Vishwakarma 7-5, 6-4; Daniel Ibragimov & Karan Singh bt Bekhan Atlangeriev & Maxim Shin (Uzb) 6-3, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Kasidit Samrej (Tha) bt Dhakshineswar Suresh 7-6(6), 6-7(3), 6-0. Doubles: Adil Kalyanpur & Vishnu Vardhan bt Rishi Reddy & Dhakshineswar Suresh 6-3, 7-6(6).

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Pedro Araujo (Por) & Patrick Schoen (Sui) bt Sai Karteek Reddy & Dev Javia 7-5, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Store, Slovenia: Matic Dimic & Filip Planinsek (Slo) bt Manas Dhamne & Daniel Orlita (Cze) 6-3, 7-5.

$25,000 ITF women, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Vaidehi Chaudhari & Peangtarn Plipuech (Tha) bt Natsuho Arakawa & Hikaru Sato (Jpn) 6-2, 6-2.

Pawinee Ruamrak & Bunyawi Thamchaiwat (Tha) bt Laalitya Kalluri & Sofiia Nagornaia (Isr) 6-3, 6-1.

Monique Barry (Nzl) & Alicia Smith (Aus) bt Abhilasha Bista (Nep) & Sonal Patil 6-1, 6-3; Humera Baharmus & Pooja Ingale bt Amittalai Prasutnawin & Yosita Sriporn (Tha) 6-3, 4-6, [10-6]; Honoka Kobayashi (Jpn) & Salakthip Ounmuang (Tha) bt Laquisa Khan (Aus) & Akanksha Nitture 6-4, 6-4.

Haley Giavara (USA) & Ayumi Koshiishi (Jpn) bt Jemma Carbis (Aus) & Sameeksha Shroff 7-5, 6-2.

$25,000 ITF women, Hillcrest, South Africa: Soha Sadiq bt Erin McKenzie (RSA) 6-3, 7-5; Darja Suvirdjonkova (Srb) bt Smriti Bhasin 7-6(2), 6-3.

Maddalena Giordano (Ita) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-2, 3-6, 6-0.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sri Ram bowls Whirlwind Cricketers to victory

Chilukuri Sri Ram Praneeth scalped six wickets as Whirlwind Cricketers pipped Citizen Cultural CA by five runs in the KSCA (Group I) U-19 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Whirlwind Cricketers 141 in 38.3 overs (A.S. Manjunath 33, Aryan Agarwal 3/8) bt Citizen Cultural CA 136 in 29.5 overs (Chilukuri Sri Ram Praneeth 6/32).

National United 119 in 38.2 overs lost to Vijaya 121/2 in 28.1 overs (Akshath Prabhakar 42 n.o., Anvay Dravid 35 n.o.).

Jupiter CA 250/9 in 50 overs (M. Tanshh Krishna 85, Shaik Sabir 84, Govind Swamy 3/44) lost to Karnataka Youth CA, Malur 251/4 in 41 overs (M. Kavinesh 75, K.P. Nandeesh 45, B. Naveen Siddharth 39, R. Chinmai 25, Aryan Manuj 3/57).

Jaiveer won the Show Jumping 130 cms title. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jawans 99 in 28.5 overs (B.R. Abhay Surya 31, Ronith Iyengar 3/16) lost to Swastic Union (1) 103/1 in 15.4 overs (Vrateen Prashant Padti 51 n.o., R.V. Rohit 34 n.o.).

Social Cricketers 161 in 32.5 overs (V. Lokaksha 88) lost to Bangalore Indian 164/7 in 37.2 overs (Ishaan Noel 27, K.Y. Pawan 27, Ayaan Sharmod Kumar 3/43).

Visweswarampuram (1) 269/8 in 50 overs (B. Sharvesh Kulothungan 47, Raj Singh Chauhan 49, Mayur Reddy 40, Dev Sinha 30, Shahan Shadab 41 n.o.) bt Jayanagar Cricketers 206 in 45.5 overs (Charan S. Reddy 58 n.o., R. Hemanth 29, P. Paras Sintre 32, V.K. Roopak 35, Raghav Karthik 4/23).

Herons 258 in 50 overs (Aryan Inchal 101, Akshay A. Kamath 45) bt Gandhinagar Cricketers 155 in 43.1 overs (Mohan Sharma 27, Samanyu Raina 29, R. Pruthvi Raj 29, Kuldeep Singh Purohit 3/12).

Big win for Shanthi Nagar

Shanthi Nagar thrashed Dasarahalli 11-0 in the Chief Minister's Cup football tournament here on Tuesday.

The results: Shanthi Nagar 11 (D. Shelton Paul 4, 28, R. Neil Joseph 25, 60, V. Vignesh 39, A. Edwin Rossario 41, 62, R. Pradeep 57, G. Arvind Babu 68, 70, Appu Arogyaswamy 63) bt Dasarahalli 0.

Poojya moves up

Poojya P. Kumar beat Akshaya Vishwakarma 9-0 to enter the girls' singles quarterfinals at the SAT-AITA U-16 championship series tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

Other results (quarterfinals, best of 17 games): Boys: Likhith S. Gowda bt Arhan Jain 9-2; Hrishikesh Aiyer bt Adarsh Dileepkumar 9-3; Arjun Soori bt Rishabh Ramanan 9-2; Ayaan M. Tareen bt M. Yashas Raj 9-6.

Girls: Lavanya Tiwari bt A.N. Theertha 9-4; Vidhi Gupta bt Anika Josan 9-2; Aylin M. Cornelio bt Thanu Vishwas 9-4.

Jaiveer takes the honours

Jaiveer Varma of Embassy International Riding School won the Show Jumping 130 cms title at the opening show of the 2024 Equestrian Premier League held here recently.

The results (winners all):
Show jumping: SJ7 130cm: 1. Jaiveer Varma (Ginny, Eirs); **SJ6 120cm:** Kiran Akhade (Geronimo, Urb); **SJ5 110-115cm:** Kiran Akhade (Geronimo, Urb); **SJ5: 105cm (junior):** Aadya Esha (Richness, Ece); **Open:** K. Saravanan (Icon, Cs); **SJ3 90-100cm (sub-junior & open):** Thivyesh Ram (Sana, Cs); **SJ2 80-90cm (sub-junior):** Thivyesh; **Open:** Rahul M. Deshpande (Lord Darlington, Mgdpra); **SJ1 60-70cm (children below 14):** Thivyesh.